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Ground Zero News

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TOM MINNERY OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY ATTACKS

Those who criticize us ("Focus takes wrong tack," July 19) for condemning homosexual child abuse while ignoring heterosexual child abuse are badly mistaken.

Every day, in our programs, our counseling or in our individual responses to hundreds of letters, we confront the tragedy of sex abuse and try to guide families devastated by it. But at least we recognize it for what it is--immoral, illegal and a condition to be changed. Certainly heterosexual child abuse is prevalent, but that is because heterosexuals make up 98 percent of the population.

Our concern about homosexual child abuse is serious and well founded.

First, some homosexual activist are trying to legitimize it. For years we have been pointing out the presence of the North American Man Boy Love Association in gay parades on both coasts. Partially because we helped make it controversial, NAMBLA finally was banned from the national march last year, but the official list of demands that day still included relaxing age of consent laws in order to legalize sex between adults and minors. When NAMBLA was banned from the gay games in New York last month, a "rogue" parade of 7,500 took to the streets to protest their exclusion.

Secondly, pedophilia is increasingly seen as just another sexual orientation by some gay sex researchers here and abroad. The Journal of Homosexuality gave it an approving academic gloss, and now an entire gay-oriented journal, "Paidika," is wholly devoted to the subject. In the advertising section of The Advocate, the nation's largest homosexual publication, the theme is too obvious to ignore. In 1992 the gay San Francisco Sentinel stated the matter boldly: "The love between men and boys is at the foundation of homosexuality."

Will this view ever be acceptable on Main Street? Well, who would have thought we would ever see costumed transvestites marching down Nevada Avenue as we did during the July 17th gay pride parade.

The point is this: Those whose only ethic is "tolerance," or even worse, the "celebration" of sexual "diversity," stand for nothing and thus have forfeited all moral right to oppose any sexual perversion. We will continue to oppose sexual exploitation of children wherever we find it, and we call upon all who claim to believe as we do to join us rather than criticize us for pointing out the existence of the problem.

The above letter was published in the *Gazette - Telegraph on Monday, July 25, 1994*

LINES ARE DRAWN

MEL WHITE AND GROUND ZERO RESPOND WITH CALL FOR NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Once again, an executive speaking for Focus on the Family has attempted to mislead the people of Colorado Springs about homosexuality and homosexuals (as Focus is misleading the people of our nation.) In his letter to the Gazette-Telegraph, Focus V. P. Tom Minnery tries one more time to caricature gays and lesbians as pedophiles and child molesters. Isn't it time to ask why James Dobson and his staff seem so obsessed with their campaign to inflame public sentiment against gay and lesbian Americans?

In a statement, Rev. Mel White said that, "We have monitored FOF's misleading and inflammatory anti-gay rhetoric for more than a year. From July 11-17, I fasted in the shadows of their huge, tax-free headquarters hoping that they would see how their irresponsible and unsubstantiated charges lead to so much suffering for gay American and their families. I didn't expect them to agree with me that there are millions of gay and lesbian in America who live responsible, creative, productive lives. But I had hoped that Mr. Dobson and his staff would at least temper their virulent attacks against us with a little truth. Instead, focus officials continue their national campaign to caricature and condemn gay and lesbian people."

Because we sincerely believe that their irresponsible rhetoric leads to suffering and death for our brothers and sisters, we will respond to the anti-gay words and political actions of Mr. Dobson and his staff through:

1. A national campaign to get James Dobson's "Family Commentary" off the network affiliates that carry it;
2. An investigation of Mr. Dobson's political involvement in the campaign by the radical right to superimpose their fundamentalist moral agenda on all Americans, a possible violation of his 501(c)(3) tax free status;
3. A campaign to get the American Psychological, American Psychiatric and American Medical Associations to reprimand Mr. Dobson and his staff for irresponsibility if not malpractice.
4. A campaign to mobilize tens of thousands of parents and friends to protest to the Post Master General the anti-gay print materials being distributed tax-free by Focus with the eventual goal of getting their SPECIAL, non-profit mailing rates withdrawn.
5. An appeal to every radio station carrying "Focus on the Family" programming (and to FCC regulators) to examine the half truths, and lies so basic to Mr. Dobson's anti-gay rhetoric.

See Ground Zero's Response to Tom Minnery's Letter on Page 13

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many groups, individuals and foundations have contributed to Ground Zero's abilities to fulfill its mission to the community. This month, we would particularly like to extend deep appreciation to those listed below.

NEWSLETTER

Ground Zero News is produced in large part with financial support extended though a grant by ***THE CHINOOK FUND***. The Chinook Fund has been with us from the start.

THE FAST FOR UNDERSTANDING

In addition to the expense of the advertisements to get Mel White's answer out in local newspapers, the FAST FOR UNDERSTANDING required several thousands of dollars to support. ***THE FUNDING EXCHANGE*** graciously extended a thousand dollar grant to assist in those expenses.

GENERAL SUPPORT

TIM GILL AND THE GILL FOUNDATION have extended numerous grants to assist in various project in which Ground Zero has been involved. Tim matched funds this month raised in the community in the sum of $3500, to which he added another $1,000. Couldn't have come at a better time TIM.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. In particular, this month, we extend deep appreciation for the support of **TRUE COLORS; THE PICNIC BASKET; UNCOMMON GROUNDS; THE ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT; THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT, BJ WELCH AND DARRYL G. AND GENTRY'S. We love you!!!**

Ground Zero News is an authorized publication for members of Ground Zero. Contents of the ***Ground Zero News*** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the Board of Directors of Ground Zero. The editorial content is edited and prepared by the Newsletter staff/committee.

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NEXT MONTH

There are a lot of gimmicks out there when it comes to long distance service and how you can save money while maKing a donation to your favorite

GROUND ZERO!!!

THIS WILL LIKELY COME AS NO SURPRISE BUT MOST OF THEM ARE JUST THAT--

"GIMMICKS"

Cheer Up Buckoo

The Next issue of *Ground Zero News* will not only show you how to get great service at a very low rate but also how to remember GZ with much needed funding

PAINLESSLY.

HONEST!
Love ya!!

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PRIDEFEST RALLIES COMMUNITY

By FKM

The PPGLCC Pridefest Committee (Chris Baca, Tammi Gaylor, Chris Lee, Dennis Lujan, Marian Stone, and Stan Wright) in cooperation with PFLAG, the Pikes Peak MCC, La Guia and Ground Zero pulled off the most successful display of gay and lesbian pride in the history of our community.

The addition of Rev. Mel White's Fast for Understanding created an unusual amount of positive media attention for the events of the week long celebration. On Wednesday, July 13, a candlelight vigil was held in front of Focus on the Family's tax free Palace on the Hill in Briargate. Approximately 150 community supporters heard Mel, Nori Rost, our MCC pastor, Samuel Behrens of Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice in LA, Rev. Dwayne Johnson, pastor of the Richmond, Va. MCC and Rita Ague of United Parents encourage us to defend our families from the lies of the political fundamentalists and to remember we are engaging this enemy for lesbians and gays across the country. It was a moving and invigorating experience.

The First Annual Pridefest Film Festival opened on Friday with a showing of Kermit Cole's "Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness." The director spoke and answered questions about his uplifting and engaging work on people with AIDS who live very full and positive lives.

The next day began with a noon Pro-Family Rally in front of Focus complete with balloons, flags and flowers. The Rally was sponsored by Ground Zero, La Guia, P-Flag, The Pikes Peak MCC, and the PPGLCC Pridefest Committee. Jose Zuniga, Soldier of the Year and Grand Marshall of the following day's Parade spoke as did supporters from other minority communities: Cahuilla Margaret Red Elk from the American Indian Movement, Altressa Williams from the Minority Coalition, Gerda Fletcher of P-FLAG, and Richard Jones-Christie from Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission.

Mel White addressed his comments to the continuing lies Focus feeds the public about homosexuality and pointed out that the good they do for some families cannot excuse the pain and destruction they cause in others.

Music was provided by some of the cast of First Strike Theatre, including Lynn Boudreau, who wrote a very touching song for the occasion. The 250 people who attended this event found it an empowering experience.

The second film of the Film Festival, "One Nation Under God," showed Saturday evening. Included in the audience, although he sneaked out before intermission when his jackboot friends failed to materialize, was none other than Kevin Tebedo. Apparently he has a very low tolerance for truth. Michael Bussee, former ex-gay and founder of Exodus, a group who appears prominently in the film, spoke about the pain caused by the ex-gay movement and the fallacies of their theories.

Following the film, a reception, supported by gay businesses who donated all the food and beverage, was held in the Gates Common Room at Colorado College for all the dignitaries who had come to celebrate Gay Pride with us in Colorado Springs.

Sunday brought 5000! (police and Gazette statistics) for THE PARADE. Pre-parade entertainment was provided in Acacia Park. When the parade started at 1 PM Nevada Avenue was filled between Cache la Poudre and Platte with the beautiful diversity and color that our community represents. Contingents came from other Colorado cities including Boulder, Pueblo, and 4 bus loads from Denver. Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon in Acacia Park, and when Mel White asked the audience to help give money to answer the full page Focus had published that morning in the Gazette over $2000 was raised.

The day ended at a Pikes Peak MCC Interfaith Service celebrated with an overflow crowd at the Unitarian Church at which Mel White, Nori Rost, Gary Nixon, Mel's partner, and Samuel Behrens broke their week long fast. At the park one mother who came to support her gay son summed up the day perfectly saying ***"I wish some of my Christian friends could see what is happening here today. Anybody here could be your neighbor, your mechanic, your doctor, or just a goofy friend who makes you laugh. I see a lot of love here today. I don't see anything that could ruin America."***

Dr. Dobson's Letter to Rev. White

Dear Mel:

As you must know by now, my wife and I are on the European trip at this time, having flown yesterday from Paris to London. Your letter caught up with us a few days ago, but this is the first opportunity I've had to respond. Obviously, I won't be able to meet with you during your visit to Colorado Springs and to the campus of Focus on the Family.

Under other circumstances, I would have been happy to sit down with you and talk about our differing perspectives. What makes such an interchange unlikely in the immediate future is the striking degree of dishonesty in your public comments about me and the real purposes of your campaign. Let me elaborate.

First, you had distorted the truth with regard to our relationship. I hardly know you, and more importantly, you don't know me at all. Yet just before I left on this trip, I received a press release from your promoters which read, "Mel White -- has a special message to deliver to Dr Dobson, who was among those for whom he wrote speeches and with whom he counseled."

What an irresponsible misrepresentation of facts, Mel. No one has ever written a speech for me. Not once in a lifetime. Nor have I used ghost writers to author my books. You also know that I never provided any counseling for you or your family. These are posturing statements that I challenge you to document or correct in the press. I have never even had so much as a cup of coffee with you. The most lengthy conversation between us occurred in the lobby of the Amway Grand Hotel, January, 1993, when we shook hands and talked for about two minutes. That is the extent of our "working relationship." How can we now discuss our differences in an atmosphere of mutual respect when you have constructed a fraudulent basis for such a conversation?

Second, the way you handled your most recent letter to me also reveals your propagandistic motives. It was marked, "Personal, Confidential and Private." I assumed from that designation that you intended the letter to be personal, confidential and private. I treated it that way and would have responded in kind. The next day I heard that you had released the letter to the press and it was quoted in Denver and in the Springs. Apparently, it was not written to me but rather to your friends in the media.

The suspicion was validated when you showed up in our lobby on Monday with a bouquet of flowers for me. Not surprisingly, you brought a photographer with you. It is clear from these and other manipulations of the press (which has collaborated willingly) that your purpose in this campaign is to capitalize on the visibility of Focus on the Family to publicize your book and promote yourself. What we have here is an elaborate publicity campaign wrapped in the cloak of human rights.

Admittedly, the distortions in your letter and in recent pronouncements go beyond self-promotion. You have twisted the truth, deliberately I assume, with regard to my writings and the subjects of my radio broadcasts. I've aired about 4,000 programs during my 17 years on the air. Of that number, only a handful have been devoted to the subject of homosexuality, and on all occasions, the comments made were respectful, caring, and compassionate. There was not a word of disrespect aimed at individuals who are homosexual or lesbian. (Tapes are available for any members of the press who would like to validate this point.) Nor have there been instances of hatred in my writings. I believe you know that is true, but you've claimed otherwise to generate the desired publicity.

In the numerous interviews you've given this past year, you have made many wild statements about us but never quoted a word that I've said or written. You've never documented any of your assertions about our supposed extremism or bigotry. So I'm asking you now in this letter, which will also be released to the press, to come forward with evidence, I invite you to quote chapter and verse. Cite the dates. Provide the basis for your incendiary charges against me and Focus on the Family. Take a month or two to check the record. You'll find not a word that dehumanizes any individuals or any classification of people.

I have opposed the agenda of homosexual and lesbian activists, and have aired perhaps fifteen broadcasts on that concern over the years. I disagree strongly with many of the goals of this movement, and I'm entitled to express those perspectives in the public arena. I'm especially concerned about the efforts by gay activists to utilize the public schools to undermine heterosexual marriage and the institution of the family. In some cases, pro-gay literature and programs like Project 10 have been used for purposes of homosexual recruitment.

Let me quote excerpts from a recent column written by Mona Charen, Entitled, "In New York a lurid curriculum for mere 12 year olds." The article was published in dozens of newspapers, including the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph. Here are* excerpts from that column:

If your child's high school is handing out condoms, cheer up. Things could worse. It could be sponsoring indoctrination by the Gay Men's Health Crisis, as New York has done.

The New York City Department of Education, unchastened by the ouster of former schools superintendent, Joseph Fernandez, over the Rainbow Curriculum, has sponsored a so-called "peer-educators" conference organized by the Gay men's Health Crisis. In the guise of presenting health information, GMHC used the occasion to engage in raw (in all senses of the work) homosexual propaganda aimed at teen-agers.

"...The circulars handed out to junior high and high school students include nude pictures of a woman with her legs spread to an approaching clenched fist (swathed in latex). Lesbian "fisting," the pamphlet explains, can be enjoyed in the participants are suitably armored with gloves. In fact, "fisting" is a painful and hazardous practice which has resulted in many injuries and one known death.

There are instruction in the proper methods for trying "golden showers" (sexual activity with urine, enemas (I kid you not) scalpels and razors. The section entitled "welts and blisters" advises the kids to "wear latex gloves and be sure to clean your canes, crops, whips, etc. See section on sex toys."

Young men and particularly young black men, are told that anal intercourse is "safe" if done with a condom. I won't in deference to the standard of family newspapers, reproduce the language used.

The conference, "Youth Teaching Your about HIV/AIDS," was aimed at kids ages 12 - 24 and was held at New York University Medical Center on Feb. 12. The Board of Education cooperated by posting notices for the conference in high schools throughout the city, by making its office space, computers, fax machines and telephones available to the organizers, and by listing its own "High School HIV/AIDS Resource Center" as the conference mailing address.

..Clorox and soap, condoms and dental dams, fists and knives, whips and chains, this is the stuff the New York Board of Education presents to 12-year-olds. This is what masquerades as fighting AIDS."

Exposure of children to this kind of outrageous and immoral material MUST be stopped, Mel. Those who would do such things should never again have access to young minds. Indeed, as a father, you should be the first to condemn the use of kids for this kind of political purpose. You might consider driving your motor home to New York City and parking it for a week outside the Board of Education. Unfortunately, I've never heard you or any other gay activist take a stand against such abuse. We are not talking about civil rights, here. We are dealing with incredibly offensive efforts to manipulate the most vulnerable and uninformed among us. I will fight this campaign as long as I have breath within my body.

I am hardly alone in that posture. Indeed, Focus on the Family is in the mainstream in all of its perspectives. The vast majority of parents and citizens are also opposed to the attempt by gay activists to capture the hearts and minds of children. That's why Colorado residents rose in masse a few months ago to oppose the PTA's support of providing homosexual propaganda to school-aged children. Taking such a position does not represent hatred of gays and lesbians. It is a reflection of deep convictions about what is good for children, good for families, and good for the nation.

Nevertheless, other gay activists have taken the position that anyone who disagrees with their radical vision of the world is a bigot and a hate-monger. That is demagogic, Mel. Homosexual activists enjoy such incredible support in the media and within the entertainment industry that they have become heady with power. Any visible person who has the temerity to disagree with the party line is subjected to lies, intimidation and ridicule. It appears to us that your foray into Colorado Springs is an expression of that political pressure.

There is finally, another gross misrepresentation in your letter. You wrote, "(your) current direct-mail fundraising campaign (is) using anti-gay/lesbian rhetoric to create fear and raise money (and) has gone far beyond malpractice." I'm sure you know that no such campaign is in progress, nor has anything like that ever occurred here. I rarely mention money in my letters or on the air. Hard sell fund raising does not occur within this ministry, and certainly, the request for money has never been linked to fear tactics of any kind. You've also implied that I raise huge quantities of money for personal gain, although I'm sure you know I've never taken a salary from this ministry in its 17 years history. I even reimburse Focus for what it spends on health insurance for my family. So again, I ask you to correct the public record. Either document the existence of a fund-raising "campaign" and alleged financial chicanery, or apologize to the press and to us for fabricating the story.

Given these many manipulations and misrepresentations of the facts, Mel, it is interesting that you have come to Focus on the Family to speak for moral principles, right and wrong. There's profound hypocrisy there somewhere.

Let me summarize: I've never tried to hurt you or anyone else. In fact, I have not uttered a work about you publicly, even though you've been attacking me unjustly for almost a year. You appear to be a very angry man who is looking for someone to blame for the fain in your life, and I'm a convenient scapegoat. So be it. I just ask that you fight fair. When you make an accusation of me, please be man enough to document it with quotations and circumstances. And especially I ask that you not tell the world that we are close friends or that we have worked together in the past. You know that is a baseless claim.

Will I meet with you in the future? Yes, if you will come privately for purposes of honest dialogue. But will I participate in your book promotion tour and the currently organized propaganda campaign? Sorry. I'm not interested.

Despite the candor of this reply to your charges, Mel, I extend my best regards to you. While we disagree strongly on some very critical issues, I do not intend any ill will or malice to you. If you know me better, you'd understand that I really mean that.

Sincerely, James C. Dobson, Ph.D.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
Metropolitan Community Church

Rev. White Responds to Dr. Dobson

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of July 14, 1994. I am sorry for the inconvenience and discomfort all this has caused you. I have never questioned your sincerity. I'm sorry you have questioned mine. By now, you know that a Ground Zero volunteer thought you had been one of my writing clients. Immediately, when he discovered his error, Ground Zero explained and retracted his release. You must know as well that this fast for understanding is not about self-aggrandizement nor selling books. It is far too dangerous and costly for that. And I hope you know, too, that I want nothing but the best for you and for your Focus on the Family ministry, but in your anti-gay words and political actions you are causing suffering for my brothers and sisters and there is no way I can remain silent in light of that suffering.

I believe you are sincere in raising up "an army of committed soldiers" to represent "righteousness and family integrity" in your "moral equivalent to war." But in that March 1993 prayer and fund-raising letter's call to wage war, you use the words "homosexual," "homosexuality," "gay" or "lesbian" 22 times to illustrate your "alarming erosion of morality in the culture."

For years we have monitored your anti-gay rhetoric. In the 13 page case I made against you, every one of my examples is taken directly from your words or the words of your broadcasts guests, from Focus on the Family letters, books, audio tapes, video tapes, or direct-mail, fund-raising appeals. [Your regular letters to Focus' friends and supporters may not be "hard-sell fund-raising," but when I sit here in the shadow of your tax-free, multi-million dollar headquarters in Colorado Springs with 1,300 employees and a $97 million annual budget, we can be sure that your fund raising skills, if not "hard sell," are truly effective.] I stand by my charge that the anti-gay rhetoric in your broadcasts and print/media materials lead directly to discrimination, suffering and death for gay and lesbian people.

"But I love homosexuals," you are probably thinking. "And," you add quickly, "I have never advocated violence against them." Of course, but do you actually believe that by saying you "love us," just before repeating your litany of false charges against us, that you can declare yourself innocent of the hatred and violence that your anti-gay rhetoric sets in motion?

And if you think you can ease the suffering that you help cause by directing your false charges at some imaginary "militant homosexual activist" you are wrong. Your listeners hear your charges and think that all homosexuals have "an agenda that threatens American family values," that we all "recruit and molest children," that we all participate in ugly and dehumanizing sexual practices," that we all are "carriers of dread diseases," etc. etc. etc.

It isn't enough for you to caricature and condemn us falsely. Now you and your staff have joined with your powerful colleagues from the Christian Coalition, American Family Association, Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for America, Traditional Values Coalition, and dozens of other national and local radical right organizations, to put your anti-gay rhetoric into political action. I have the transcripts of the secret anti-gay meeting on May 15-17 at the Navigator's Glen Eyrie Center. That gathering of at least 35 different anti-gay organizations, had one primary political goal: to eliminate gay and lesbian rights in this country forever.

I have on tape your words of greeting to that political gathering by John Eldredge the first, keynote speaker. "The gay agenda," he claimed quite falsely , "has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn...It deceives those who are drawn into it, who embrace. It presents an extraordinarily deceptive face to the public at large."

John was one of the four delegates to that conference from Focus on the Family. (In fact, Focus had more delegates to this savagely anti-gay gathering than came from the host organization, Colorado For Family Values.) Mr. Eldredge made his goals for gays and lesbians completely clear: "...to roll back the militant gay agenda wherever it manifests itself...whether in domestic partnership ordinances...school curriculum issues...pursuit of minority status..marriage and adoption privileges, so on and so forth."

The goals of that elaborate, expensive, precinct by precinct, city by city, state by state campaign would eliminate the rights of all gay and lesbian Americans. And your men from Focus on the Family helped put that patently political plan into place. I believe in your first amendment rights to say what you believe. But your non-profit status clearly prohibits this kind of political action. And your commitment to Jesus and to the Constitution of this nation should prohibit your participation in any national strategy to eliminate the rights of others, even the rights of those with whom you disagree.

Jim, can't you see what has happened to you and to my old friends and clients on the religious right? You have stopped talking about Jesus and you've started a political campaign to superimpose your fundamentalist agenda over the rights of every American who disagrees. Your actions are unChristian and unAmerican. Worse, inadvertently, in your obsession to eliminate abortion and homosexuality (for just two examples) you have become a primary voice for intolerance in the land.

Your friends on the radical religious right will applaud you. To them, intolerance has become a positive word. "I want you to just let a wave of intolerance wash over you," says Randall Terry, your friend from Operation Rescue. "I want you to let a wave of hatred wash over you. Yes, hate is good...Our goal is a Christian nation. We have a biblical duty, we are called by God, to conquer this country. We don't want equal time. We don't want pluralism." (The News-Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Ind, August 16, 1993)

You didn't say those words, Jim. You may not even believe them. But how far will you go to exert your view of Christian morality over this nation? I am truly frightened by the prospect of where this all might end. I am a gay, Christian man. At the heart of your agenda is the desire to "eliminate homosexuality" (the phrase your associate Larry Bertoff used yesterday on a TV debate with me.) How else can you "eliminate homosexuality" if you don't eliminate the homosexuals who refuse to submit to your primitive, ineffectual, and totally discredited "ex-gay" therapies?

Jim, you don't mean to be a voice for intolerance, but your anti gay rhetoric really does lead to death. I spoke at the memorial service of a 23 year old gay Southern Baptist singer who was kidnapped, humiliated, and shot 29 times because he was "a faggot and worthy of death." Two weeks ago a man from my home town was tied up, stabbed 10 times, and left to die with his throat and genitals slashed. In Los Angeles County, gay men are now the number one victims of hate crimes.

What do you have to do with this brutal and murderous hate? Is there a one to one connection between what you say and someone's urge to kill? Yesterday, just minutes after a radio talk show host in Colorado Springs read your July 14 letter to me on the air, two different callers exclaimed, "Somebody ought to go up there and kill him."

I know you get death threats, too. But your death threats don't come because you've talked about Jesus, or preached the Gospel, or given wise counsel to your listeners (as the Focus of the Family charter clearly implies). Your death threats come because of your covert (and sometimes overt) call for intolerance against this imaginary "militant homosexual agenda." My death threats come because I call for tolerance and love and understanding for my gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered brothers and sisters. We disagree about homosexuality, Jim. It's OK to disagree. That right is guaranteed us both. But what can we do before your militant fundamentalist agenda leads to terrible consequences for us and for this nation?

This is all I ask. If there are homosexuals who do evil, remember there are heterosexuals who do evil as well. We don't talk about the "militant heterosexual agenda" just because there are heterosexuals who produce pornography, molest children, carry diseases, and participate in destructive and dehumanizing sexual acts. Don't blame millions of innocent gays and lesbians for the evil done by a few.

Come to the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas. Meet thousands of lesbian and gay Christians who live together in loving, long-term, monogamous relationships, who parent children with skill and understanding, who are doctors, lawyers, university presidents, secretaries, nurses, pastors, priests, and hair dressers, who serve their nation in all branches of the military with honor, who are living with HIV/AIDS with courage and Christian grace. Ask your own friends and employees who are gay, to come out of their closets and tell you the suffering your rhetoric causes them. Jim, whether you agree with homosexuality or not, we lesbian and gay Christians exist. In the name of Jesus, we ask you to stop your anti-gay rhetoric. Your words and your political actions are killing us.

Sincerely, Mel White

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(Daily Fast, cont. from Pg. 8)

Later that day, Mel White was the only guest on a two hour, live, call-in talk show over KOA-Denver, a 50,000 watt radio station that is heard in 38 states. At 10:30 PM Mel was joined on Channel 11 TV by the Reverend Nori Rost, pastor of Colorado Spring's Pike Peak MCC Church, for a debate with two Focus on the Family officials. Given the last word, Mel White looked at John Eldredge, the Focus Vice President who is a leader in this anti-gay movement by radical religious groups "to end gay rights forever" and said, "This is not just about gay rights. It is about human rights. Sincere or not, these men and their allies on the radical right are trying to superimpose their fundamentalist moral agenda on the entire nation. And that should be scary for us all."

The highlight of this long, productive, seventh day of the fast was an interfaith service led by Nori Rost at the Pike's Peak Metropolitan Community Church. After enthusiastic singing by the overflow congregation and the choir, after prayer and reading of the Scriptures, after Mel's sermon on "The Importance of Friendship In These Troubled Times," Pastor Rost led the congregation in communion.

The service ended, Mel, Gary, Nori, Samuel, and the others who had fasted with them broke their fast and headed for a bowl of soup at a nearby cafeteria. En route, Mel said quietly to this reporter, "At communion, I asked Jesus to forgive me for anything I had said or done during this past week of confrontation that did not reflect His loving spirit. It isn't easy to confront someone like James Dobson. He is my brother. I will be misunderstood and condemned by him. Very likely," he added after a pause, "through his broadcasts and mailings, I will be misunderstood and condemned by millions of others. But I am convinced that what he and his friends are saying and doing to end the rights of gays and lesbians in this country is morally and spiritually wrong. I can't be silent."

As Mel and Gary left the church for their first meal in seven days, a P-FLAG mother with tears in her eyes grasped Mel's arm and said, "We're so grateful that you came to Colorado. My son died from AIDS. He was wonderful Christian boy, but people at our church rejected him because he was gay. They wouldn't even come to his funeral. When you stand up to the people who think like that, you honor my son's memory."

[A complete record of Dr. White's 7 day Fast for Understanding, including the 13 page charges against Dobson and Focus on the Family, a complete record of the correspondence between Dobson, Focus, and Dr. White, the Fast "Dairy," and a 5 page summary of the secret Glen Eyrie meeting by leaders of the radical right "to plot the end of gay rights and to eliminate homosexuality," can by obtained by sending $15. to the Dean's Fund, Cathedral of Hope MCC, P.O. Box 35466, Dallas, Texas, 75235. After printing and shipping charges are covered, profits go to help pay off the expenses of the Fast for Understanding. Dr. White, adds, "if this sounds like an offering appeal, so be it."]

THE FAST FOR UNDERSTANDING
A DAY BY DAY ACCOUNT

DAYS ONE AND TWO

Monday, July 11 and Tuesday July 12, 1994

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. On Sunday, July 10, Dr. Mel White arrived in Colorado to begin his seven day Fast for Understanding in front of the world headquarters of James Dobson's Focus on the Family. That same afternoon in Denver, with Colorado's Governor Romer, Denver's Mayor Webb, and guest star Carol Channing on the state capitol steps, Dr. White announced the fast to thousands of cheering Coloradans gathered for the 1994 Pride Festival and Parade.

That evening, Mel was welcomed to Colorado Springs by leaders of Ground Zero, the Metropolitan Community Churches, P-FLAG, and La Guia, the Hispanic Caucus, co-sponsors of the Fast for Understanding. They presented him a copy of the story describing the fast in Saturday's *Gazette Telegraph* under the banner headline: Christian Gay Activist Plans Protest of Focus on the Family. "Just seeing 'Christian Gay Activist' in a newspaper headline is a kind of victory for all of us," Dr. White exclaimed. "White is targeting Focus and its founder, James Dobson, " the story began, "because he says the pro-family ministry's stand on homosexuality fosters hatred for gays."

Monday morning, July 11, Mel and his life partner, Gary Nixon, drove up Briargate Avenue in the sponsor's rented 28 foot Fleetwood RV and parked on public property directly in front of the massive home of Focus on the Family's $97 million yearly worldwide radio and print ministry. The fast site was decorated with a large banner reading: Fast for Understanding, Day 1; other colorful flags and banners including, Love Makes a Family, the theme for the coming week of events; and a brightly, stripped green awning over tables and chairs where Dr. White and other friends of the fast would gather daily to meet "with anybody who wants to meet a queer and see how normal we really are."

Day one of the Fast included a press conference, the first local television interview, two hour-long, live, national radio talk shows broadcast from the site, interviews with both city newspapers, with reporters from *Clarity*, a national magazine for Christian women, and *The Other Side*, a national Christian magazine that regularly explores peace and justice issues. Each reporter was given a 13 page summary of the 'misleading and inflammatory' remarks about lesbian and gay Americans' made in the last three years by Mr. Dobson, his staff, his radio guests, or found in Focus on the Family print or media materials.

Reporters also received a summary of speeches recorded at the secret May 15-17, 1994, Glen Eyrie conference called by leaders of 40 different anti-gay organizations to plot their strategy for the elimination of gay rights before 1996. The conference key note address was given by John Eldridge, a Focus vice-president, who said, "...the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn. It is destroying the souls and lives of those who embrace it." In his opening greeting, Mr. Eldridge said "Dr. Dobson and those of us at Focus on the Family...see this issue as one of the key issues of our time. So much hinges on what happens with the full agenda of the militant gay movement."

At 2:00 P.M. with MCC's pastor, Nori Rost, and Ground Zero's President, Bobby Mone, Mel carried a bouquet of flowers up the hill above the Fast site to the personal offices of James Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family. With the flowers went a handwritten note from Dr. White inviting Dr. Dobson and/or his representatives to meet with participants in the fast to discuss their charges at "any time and any place."

During the first day, at least fifty different people, dropped by the fast site to offer their encouragement. Several brought flowers or bottles of Gatorade with cards thanking Mel and the sponsors for their courage. Channel 11's evening news at 5 and 10 PM both opened with Mel White's interview and Focus' official reply. Both praise and curses were shouted from passing cars during the fast's long and eventful first day. A security officer spent the night at the fast site as more and more curious people were drawn to the scene.

Day two of the fast, Tuesday, July 12, began at 5:30 AM for Dr. White on a walk around the massive Focus on the Family Campus. When asked about the walk, Dr. White replied, "Gandhi once said about fasting, 'If you keep your spirit fed, your body won't feel the hunger.' I watched the sunrise over Focus asking God's spirit to guide us in this fast. We are here to build bridges of understanding. And it won't be easy."

At the fast site, the day began with interviews by a reporter from the *Denver Post* and a camera crew from Channel 5, a second Colorado Springs television station. The morning edition of the Gazette Telegraph carried an 11 by 6 inch photo of Dr. White at the fast site with the headquarters' of Focus on the Family looming in the background. The picture's caption read, "Hungry for Understanding," and the headline over the reporter's interview with Dr. White read, "Gay cleric fasts for tolerance." The article concluded with the official response by Paul Hetrick, a Focus Vice President, who said, "...blaming Dobson for homosexuals' problems is bogus. The problems are a byproduct of the lifestyle." After claiming that White's appearance in Colorado Springs may be nothing more than "a stunt to promote his book, *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*, " Mr. Hetrick went on to claim that Mel White was "indicting Dr. Dobson for complicity to murder." Mel White replied, "Mr. Hetrick said it. I didn't."

Because of the TV and newspaper stories generated by Day One of the fast, the number of people coming to the fast site to praise or to curse Dr. White doubled. Visitors were encouraged to sign the Fast for Understanding banner. The brief messages they left tell a deeply moving story of the suffering of gays and lesbians in Colorado Springs, especially after Colorado's Amendment 2 campaign divided this city into warring camps. A conservative pastor who still thinks homosexuality "is a sin," dropped by with his daughter "to hear the other side of the story." Colin Cook, a controversial "former homosexual" and now a leader in the "ex-gay" reparative therapy movement, and Kevin Tebedo, head of the Colorado for Family Values, the group that spearheaded the campaign to eliminate gay rights in Colorado, came by to confront Dr. White. A Catholic priest who ministers to local men with AIDS, dropped by the fast site to offer encouragement and communion to the fasters. At least 100 strangers came by to give support. Because a newspaper story mentioned that Dr. White was limiting his fast to water and Gatorade, dozens of thoughtful Coloradans brought bottles of the stuff.

Early in the afternoon, Dr. H.B.London, a Focus Vice-President, called Dr. White at the fast site by cellular phone to invite him and three others to meet with three Focus Vice-Presidents on the following morning. After the call, Mel repeated the words that had begun this day. "We're here to build bridges of understanding. And it won't be easy," he said again. "It may not even be possible. But we have to try."

DAY THREE

Wednesday, July 13, 1994

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. Mel White and his life-partner, Gary Nixon, spent a restless night at their fast site in front of the world headquarters' of James Dobson's Focus on the Family ministries. The security guard had to jump from his car to warn away one determined late night caller and several times, well after midnight, people honked their horns, spun their wheels, or yelled "faggot" as they sped away.

At exactly 9:00 AM, Dr. White, Robert Mone and Franklin Whitworth from Ground Zero, Buzz Frum, from P-FLAG (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays), and the Reverend Rost from the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Community Church walked into the world headquarters of Focus on the Family. They were greeted by Vice President, H.B. London, and given a one hour tour of the 225,000 square foot headquarters and the 175,000 square foot distribution center. According to their guide, Focus receives 10,000 letters and 3,500 phone calls daily and mails out approximately 5 million letters and parcels of materials every year. During the tour, Dr. London told Dr. White that several of his facts about Focus were wrong. For example, the Focus annual budget was $97 million not $150 million as Mel had claimed. Dr. White apologized for any errors in the numbers in his press release and promised to change them immediately.

From 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Mel White and his associates met with four Focus leaders. "The spirit of our meeting was excellent," Dr. White explained later. "Although we didn't come to any kind of agreement during this opening round of talks, both sides expressed themselves honestly and openly." After their meeting with Focus leaders, Mr. Buzz Frum, the PFLAG parent explained why he was in solidarity with Dr. White's fast.

"I am an evangelical Christian, too," he said, "and a long, time supporter of Focus on the Family. But when God blessed our heterosexual home with a lesbian daughter and a gay son, we began to realize that Jim Dobson and his colleagues were not right about everything. We love and respect our homosexual children as God loves and respects them. And though we still don't understand everything about sexual orientation, we can see God's spirit working in our gay children's lives. We are so saddened and alarmed by the cloud of misinformation that Focus, Colorado for Family Values, and other organizations are distributing about lesbian and gay people. During the Amendment 2 campaign," he added, "our son's life was threatened. The misinformation flowing out of Focus leads directly to intolerance and discrimination against our own children and I was glad to have an opportunity to warn Focus of the great harm they are doing to my family and across the nation to other families with gay or lesbian children."

During the afternoon, dozens of people dropped by the fast site to encourage Dr. White and the people who were fasting with him. Samuel Behrens, a young, gay lawyer, came from California representing Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice, a group of Christian activists from the Western Region of Evangelicals Concerned. Duane Johnson, the MCC pastor in Richmond, Virginia, was sent by his congregation to join in the fast. "I am here," he explained,

"because I understand the ignorance and suffering these people help create. My church in Richmond is half way between the headquarters cities of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. Like James Dobson, these men may be sincere," he said, "but they are sincerely wrong about lesbian and gay people. And their misinformation must be confronted and condemned by all of us."

At 5:00 PM, Dr. White received a five page press release from Focus on the Family titled "Speaking of Disinformation: A Response to Mel White's Criticism of Focus on the Family." After correcting several of Dr. White's statistics on the financial and political clout of the Focus' worldwide ministries, the unknown author of this unsigned 'Social Research Brief' listed 8 "false assertions" made by Dr. White.
"In denying just eight of my many assertions," Dr. White replied, "and in defending their tired old case against homosexuality, Focus has accomplished for me exactly what I came to do. Behind the loving Focus on the Family image is a growing obsession to caricature and condemn gay people. Their press release is so replete with misleading and inflammatory rhetoric against lesbians and gays that I'm going to quit using my 13 page summary of their words against us and just use their own news release to prove my point. Any thoughtful American who reads through their lurid and totally inaccurate description of the "gay lifestyle" or the imaginary "gay agenda" will realize how desperate Focus is to keep alive their demeaning and dehumanizing caricature of homosexuals. I can't understand why they insist on misusing a handful of Biblical texts and the discredited research of a handful of their 'authority' figures to condemn us. It is so unlike anything Jesus would say or do."

By 8:00 PM more than 100 people gathered at the fast site for a candlelight vigil to support the fast. Heterosexual and gay parents brought their children. Gay and lesbians couples stood hand in hand. Local pastors and members of gay-affirming congregations joined in the vigil. More than a dozen individual gay or lesbian Christians in the crowd told this reporter that this vigil was their first step out of the closet into the front lines in this war against them. After a moving program of special music and speeches, the crowd lit their candles, walked to the entrance of Focus on the Family's world headquarters, and stood peacefully at the police barricades singing, "We shall overcome" and "Jesus loves me, this I know."

DAYS FOUR AND FIVE
Thursday, July 14 and Friday 15, 1994

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. Mel White began this fourth day of his Fast for Understanding as the guest of a popular morning talk show. He responded to callers by cellular phone from the Ground Zero RV parked in front of James Dobson's Focus on the Family world headquarters. The flood of calls praising and cursing Dr. White's presence in Colorado Springs made it clear that the whole town was talking about this UFMCC clergyman's charges against Focus, one of the city's largest industries, and the other approximately 60 organizations from the radical religious right headquartered here.

"Jim Dobson is not an evil man," White said quietly. "Focus on the Family is not an evil organization. In their misunderstanding of gay and lesbian people they are victims of other victims of superstition and prejudice that have been passed down to them over the ages. It took me more than 30 years to understand and accept myself," he added. "Now, I have to give Mr. Dobson and the others the time they need to know and understand me. But, in the meantime, whether his motives are good or bad, we cannot remain silent in the face of Dobson's anti-gay rhetoric and his national anti-gay political campaign. His words and actions lead directly to the suffering and death of innocent and loving gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered Americans."

Just after the noon luncheon of more Lemon-Lime Gatorade on ice, Focus Vice-President H.B.London appeared at the fast site to hand-deliver a 5 page letter to White from James Dobson (who was writing from France). The letter had already been released to the nation's media. After accusing White of "distorting the truth," Dobson wrote, "It is clear from your manipulations of the press (which has collaborated willingly) that your purpose in this campaign is to capitalize on the visibility of Focus on the Family to publicize your book and promote yourself. What we have here is an elaborate publicity campaign wrapped in the cloak of human rights...Admittedly, the distortions in your letter and in recent pronouncements go beyond self-promotion. You have twisted the truth, deliberately I assume, with regard to my writings and the subject of my radio broadcasts."

Dr. Dobson went on to claim that in his 4,000 radio broadcasts over 17 years, "only a handful have been devoted to the subject of homosexuality, and on all occasions, the comments made were respectful and caring, and compassionate...Nor have there been instances of hatred in my writings. I believe you know that is true, but you've claimed otherwise to generate the desired publicity..."

Dobson took the next four pages to say why he was concerned about gay activists and their campaign "to utilize the public schools to undermine heterosexual marriage and the institution of the family. In some cases," he adds, "pro-gay literature and program like Project 10 have been used for purposes of homosexual recruitment." After quoting in lurid detail a local conservative columnist's attempt to "expose" the sex education program with inner-city youth by the New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis, Dobson continues. "Exposure of children to this kind of outrageous and immoral material MUST be stopped, Mel. Those who would do such things should never again have access to young minds...I will fight this campaign as long as I have breath within my body."

["At this point, while reading the letter to friends and supporters gathered at the Fast site, Dr. White groaned and looked angry. "I get so tired of these ridiculous charges against Project 10 and the other courageous folk who risk everything to provide real services to those in need. While focus talks about molested children, Ground Zero, the tiny gay-rights organization in Colorado Springs, raised $30,000 for molested children being treated in Denver's Children Hospital. I can't help but wonder," White asked, "what actual good does Focus do with $97 million a year or is it all talk?"]
Dobson's letter to White continues. After raging against "the attempt by gay activists to capture the hearts and minds of children," Dobson claims, "Homosexual activists enjoy such incredible support in the media and within the entertainment industry that they have become heady with power. Any visible person who has the temerity to disagree with the party line is subjected to lies, intimidation and ridicule. It appears," he accuses Mel White, "that your foray into Colorado Springs is an expression of that political pressure."

To Dr. White's charge that Dobson's current direct-mail, anti-gay, fundraising campaign "has gone far beyond malpractice..." Dr. Dobson replies, "I rarely mention money in my letters or on the air. Hard sell fund raising does not occur within this ministry and certainly, the request for money has never been linked to fear tactics of any kind." Dr. Dobson ends the letter by accusing Dr. White of "profound hypocrisy," insisting that he "fight fair," and demanding that he "document his charges..."

At 3:00 PM, that same day, Dr. Dobson's letter was read on the air by a local "Rush Limbaugh type" talk show host. Immediately, listeners called in to condemn Dr. White. "Somebody ought to go up there and shoot him," a caller exclaimed. Others agreed. By early evening, there had been enough on-the-air death threats that the sponsors of Dr. White's fast moved him and his life-partner, Gary Nixon, out of the RV and into a nearby motel for the night. Franklin Whitworth at Ground Zero announced a press conference to reply to Dr. Dobson's letter for Noon the next day.

On Fast Day 5, Mel rose at 4:00 AM to write his letter responding to Dr. Dobson's charges. "I've never questioned your sincerity," he began. "I'm sorry you have questioned mine...This Fast for Understanding is not about self-aggrandizement nor selling books. It is far too dangerous and costly for that...For years we have monitored your anti-gay rhetoric," White explained. "In the 13 page case I made against you, every one of my examples is taken directly from your words or the words of your broadcast guests, from Focus on the Family letters, books, audio tapes, video tapes, or direct-mail, fund-raising appeals...I stand by my charges that [your] anti-gay rhetoric leads directly to discrimination, suffering and death for gay and lesbian people."

To the claims of Dobson and his staff that they "love homosexuals" and have "never advocated violence against them," White replied, "Do you think that by saying you 'love us' just before repeating your litany of false charges against us, that you can declare yourself innocent of the hatred and violence that your anti-gay rhetoric sets in motion?
And if you think you can ease the suffering that you help cause by directing your false charges at some imaginary "militant homosexual activist," you are wrong. Your listeners hear your charges and think that all homosexuals have "an agenda that threatens American family values," that we all "recruit and molest children," that we all participate in ugly and dehumanizing sexual practices," that we all are "carriers of dread diseases," etc. etc. etc.

"It isn't enough for you to caricature and condemn us falsely," Dr. White continued. "Now you and your staff have joined with your powerful colleagues from the Christian Coalition, American Family Association, Traditional values Coalition...and dozens of other national and local radical right organizations to put your anti-gay rhetoric into political action." Dr. White went on to remind Dr. Dobson of his staff's primary role in the secret, May 15-17, 1994, Glen Eyrie conference where leaders from 40 organizations from the radical right gathered. According to Ground Zero's president, Bobby Mone, who has complete transcripts from the meetings, "they came to Colorado Springs to plot their strategy to end all homosexual rights in America by 1996 and to effectively eliminate homosexuality from the national scene."

White's letter to Dobson continues. "I believe in your first Amendment right to say what you believe," he writes to Dobson, "but your non-profit status clearly prohibits this kind of political action. And your commitment to Jesus and to the Constitution of this nation should prohibit your participation in any national strategy to eliminate the rights of others, even the rights of those with whom you disagree...You have stopped talking about Jesus and you've started a political campaign to superimpose your fundamentalist agenda over the rights of every American who disagrees. Your actions are unChristian and unAmerican. Worse, in your obsession to eliminate abortion and homosexuality (for just two examples) you have become a primary voice for intolerance in the land."

After describing the death threats that he received directly after Dr. Dobson's letter was read on the radio, White continued. "I know you get death threats, too. But your death threats don't come because you've talked about Jesus, or preached the Gospel, or given wise counsel to your listeners. Your death threats come because of your covert (and sometimes overt) call for intolerance against this imaginary "militant homosexual agenda." My death threats come because I call for tolerance and love and understanding for my gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered brothers and sisters. We disagree about homosexuality, Jim. It's OK to disagree. That right is guaranteed

(Cont. next page)

us both. But what can we do before your militant fundamentalist agenda leads to terrible consequences for us and for this nation?"

After delivering the completed letter to Focus on the Family offices, Mel did another hour-long talk show appearance, this time on a Denver radio station that covers the entire state of Colorado. The switchboard was swamped with callers supporting the fast, encouraging Dr. White in his campaign against the radical right. Dozens of Coloradans visited the fast site that day bringing flowers and more Gatorade. More than 80 E-mail messages of encouragement were received from the U.S., Canada, and as far away as Turin, Italy. The Reverend, Elder Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches called the Fast site to express his support for Mel, for Nori Rost, the MCC pastor in Colorado Springs, and all the others who were fasting.

"We are in solidarity with you, brother," Troy shouted over the noisy static. "And to prove it, we are holding a service Saturday in support of your Fast for Understanding at Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition headquarters in Santa Anna, California." Mel White was visibly moved by the call. "Besides founding our UFMCC movement," he explained, "for 25 years Troy Perry has been a leading activist against intolerance of every kind. Before Stonewall, he chained himself to a public building in Los Angeles and fasted to protest the imprisonment of an innocent gay man. I am here in Colorado Springs in large part because of his example."

One of the most memorable Fast site visitors that day was a Jewish family from Colorado Springs. "We have called all our friends to make posters and come to your Love Makes a Family rally tomorrow," the mother replied. Then, after sharing their mutual concerns, she added quietly, "We are here to support you because we remember that the last time they took you first as well. It must not happen again." That courageous Jewish family left the Fast team with tears in their eyes and sad memories of what can happen to a nation when rhetoric leads to intolerance and intolerance leads to holocaust.

DAYS SIX AND SEVEN

Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17 1994

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. At sunrise, Saturday morning, city employees began to erect a bright orange, net fence to protect Mel White's Fast for Understanding site in front of James Dobson's Focus on the Family world headquarters. For three hours the previous afternoon, on a local Limbaugh-like talk show, representatives from Focus and Colorado for Family Values had been protesting Dr. White's fast, questioning White's motives, and denying his charges that both organizations were misleading the public with their false and inflammatory rhetoric against gay and lesbian Americans. More threats and various calls to march on the site "to take care of those creeps" were made by angry listeners. Early Saturday morning, all roads leading to Mr. Dobson's multi-million dollar facility were blocked. Just one lane of traffic was left open for Coloradans in solidarity with Dr. White's fast who would be arriving for the 12:00 noon Pro-Family Rally. Policemen wearing bullet proof vests were parked in place or patrolling the grounds by foot, on horseback, and in at least a dozen squad cars.

"I didn't think anybody would come," Dr. White confessed as he sat in the Ground Zero RV watching dozen of Coloradans make their way through the police barricades and up the hill to the fast site just yards from the Focus "Welcome Center." He went on to explain that just the night before, only 150 people showed up for the Pride Film Festival's screening of "Living Proof," a prize-winning documentary on courageous and loving people living with AIDS. "More than 600 people had purchased advance tickets," White continued, "but because of the wild charges and angry threats cluttering the airwaves, people called Ground Zero's office confessing they were afraid to attend. And that was in a public auditorium in downtown Colorado Springs," White added, "I was expecting only a handful of folk to attend the Pro-Family rally here at Focus."

But by noon, this reporter counted almost 200 Coloradans, straight and gay together, walking up the grassy hillside towards the fast site. They came alone and in family units, adults and children, hand-in-hand, carrying flowers or balloons to Focus on the Family as a sign of their peaceful approach to building understanding. They wore brightly colored T-shirts or waved hand-made signs with their messages of reconciliation: "We are family, too," "Straight but not narrow," "I love my gay son...my lesbian daughter," "It happens in the best of families," "Better gay than grumpy," "Jesus loves us, this we know!"

The local sponsors of Mel's fast, including Ground Zero, P-FLAG (Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), La Guia (the Hispanic Caucus), and the Pike's Peak Metropolitan Community Church were surprised and pleased when several TV camera crews arrived to video tape their Pro-Family rally. Lyn Boudreaux, Betty Lynn Mahaffey and friends sang and played guitars. Romanovsky and Phillips, gay life-partners whose best-selling duet albums have led to sold-out live performances across the nation, called to dedicate their song, "Love is all it takes," to Mel White and his Fast for Understanding. The song was played before Dr. White spoke. Hosted by Bobby Mone, other speakers included Franklin Whitworth of Ground Zero, Altresa Williams of the Colorado Springs Minority Council, Cahuilla Margaret Red Elk of the American Indian Movement, Gerda Fletcher, a P-FLAG mom, Joe Zuniga, America's "Soldier of the Year" who was discharged for being gay, and Michael Bussee, a founder of Exodus, the movement that would "cure gays" which he now rejects as "a well-meaning but terrible deceit."

Michael Bussee's life-partner, Ted Swink, sat in his wheelchair near the Pro-Family rally platform. Once a professional singer, now thin, pale, and weak from his courageous battle with AIDS, Ted volunteered to sing, "The Rose." Ted's Mom and Dad, B.J. and Jim, stood nearby to encourage and support their son. As Ted struggled up from his wheelchair, walked to the mike, and sang beautifully, there were smiles, tears, and hugs all around. When the rally ended, each person in the crowd placed a carnation into the shape of a triangle of pink flowers that would be given to Mr. Dobson and his staff.

Later, with his life-partner, Gary Nixon, at his side, Mel White met with reporters to explain the purpose of this Pro-Family rally. "James Dobson, and his allies on the radical right, have decided that the only *real* families in America are those with a mother, a father, and 2.5 children. But he is wrong. Today, we celebrate every family configuration where people live together in love and commitment: traditional families with a mom and dad in place, single parents struggling to bring nurture to their children, lesbian and gay couples with or without kids to raise, and extended families who have reached out to care for others who are lonely and afraid." Looking at the crowd of lesbians and gays, many of them with children, White added, "Whatever Mr. Dobson says, we are family, too. His job is not to caricature and condemn our families but to use at least a small percentage of his $97 million budget to bring hope and healing to our families, too."

On Saturday night, several hundred people gathered to view the prize-winning film "One Nation Under God," a recent Public Broadcasting special documenting the failures of the "ex-gay" movement and illustrating the primitive and ineffectual methods used by those who would "cure" homosexual orientation. Michael Bussee, who is featured in the film, fielded questions with Dr. Mel White, a film's sponsor, before Jose Zuniga joined them as the special guests of a community reception in their honor.

Kevin Tebedo, one of the primary instigators of the anti-gay, Amendment 2 initiative in Colorado (now declared unconstitutional) had called for his followers to protest the screening. At his earlier confrontation with Dr. White, Tebedo bragged without blinking that God had "told him" to launch this crusade against gay and lesbian Americans. On his way from the fast site, Tebedo asked this question of Samuel Behrens, the lawyer from Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice: "Where are you going to go," he threatened, "when we win?" Tebedo showed up at the screening alone, fidgeted his way through half of the film, and then crept away in the darkness.

On Sunday morning, the seventh day of the Fast for Understanding, Colorado Springs only daily paper, the *Gazette Telegraph*, included a full page reproduction of Dr. Dobson's letter attacking Dr. Mel White's integrity and attempting to refute White's charge that Dobson's anti-gay rhetoric "leads to suffering and death." As White joined thousands of lesbians and gays gathering for the Pride Fest in Acacia Park, reporters asked him to respond. "Nobody would spend all that money to take out a full page ad against us if we hadn't hit a sensitive nerve," White replied. "Actually, his full page letter is so full of misleading and inflammatory rhetoric against lesbian and gay people that it proves my point. I just wish we had one percent of his $97 million dollar, tax-free budget to answer him with our side of the story."

At 1:00 PM, hundreds of marchers, musical groups, at least a dozen floats and performers followed Joe Zuniga, the 1994 Grand Marshall, in Colorado Spring's annual Pride Parade. Just behind Mr. Zuniga's flower-decked convertible, Mel White and Gary Nixon walked in front of the RV that had been their home for the seven day fast. Two tall native Americans representing the American Indian Movement marched alongside as security for the parade's special guests. The Ground Zero RV had been transformed into a "Wall of Shame," covered with specific examples of the anti-gay rhetoric of Dobson, his staff, and other leaders of the radical right.

Colorado Springs Police estimated that nearly 5,000 people marched in the parade and attended the Pride Rally that followed. After his speech, Mel White asked the crowd who had gathered on behalf of gay rights, if they would donate money to Ground Zero to buy a full page ad to answer Dr. Dobson's anti-gay rhetoric. The crowd cheered and volunteers from Ground Zero passed among the celebrants collecting dollars and spare change. In just thirty minutes, $3,000 was collected to pay for the full page response.

"In an unexpectedly huge show of support for gay and lesbian rights," the Denver Post reported, "more than 2,000 people marched peacefully from Colorado College into Acacia Park. The activists came from throughout the Rock Mountain region to support the week-long fast of the Rev. Mel White, Dean of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas. White had consumed nothing but water and Gatorade since July 10, but he was to end his fast last night by taking holy communion at the Pike's Peak M.C.C."

"White," the Denver Post reporter continued, "spent the past week in a long-distance war of words with James Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family." The Post quoted Dobson's claim that all his comments about homosexuals "were respectful, caring and compassionate...but I disagree strongly with many of the goals of this movement and I'm entitled to express those perspectives in the public arena. " In response, the Post quoted these words from White's reply: "If there are homosexuals who do evil, remember there are heterosexuals who do evil as well. we don't talk about the 'militant heterosexual agenda' just because there are heterosexuals who produce pornography, molest children, carry diseases and participate in destructive and dehumanizing sexual acts. Don't blame millions of innocent gays and lesbians for the evil done by a few."

(cont.. on Pg. 5, Daily Fast)

RESPONSE TO THE MEL WHITE LETTER WAS GREAT

GROUND ZERO

re Ground Zero.
The full page letter in today Gazette Telegraph from Mel White was great. We are proud of the response to James Dobson & of the other works you do for our community. Please accept us on your team & the enclosed financial support.

7/21

Thanks for the add.

Thank You, Thank You
I walk a little taller today
I have a voice. (the Gazette article 7/21)
Here is a small contribution
God Bless You All

Finally

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

Ground Zero
P.O. Box 19820
C.S. 80906

Thanks for having the Mel White letter printed in the GT. It's wonderful!
Enclosed contrib to help defray cost.
Sincerely

WE ARE FAMILY

GROUND ZERO

Your letter was beautifully written & full of compassion for all keep up the good work
It's amazing what some "Christian" organizations represent. They need to be realigned with reality.

June 22, 1994

James Dobson
Focus on the Family
8605 Explorer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Dear Dr. Dobson:

As a psychologist, I have followed with interest your often excellent comments on family functioning, child discipline and professional assistance to persons in need. You first caught my attention some years ago with common sense mixed with science.

Though I am not a Christian, nor do I follow any other religious dogma, I am a good psychotherapist and as such have worked and continue to work professionally with Christian clients, including ministers and Christian therapists who seek my help for their various struggles with daily living challenges. The consensus is that I appreciate their beliefs and work consistently with their principles of religious and humanly respectful behavior.

I have become increasingly disturbed by your failure to distance yourself from the violent and hateful right wing of the Christian community. Since I am also a heterosexual, I admit that I have been slow to take a stand against those who so viciously and cruelly (and anti-Christianly) disparage and condemn people who do not follow the mainline Christian (or christian?) code of morality. I am speaking particularly of the homosexual oopulation here, a group which seems to be getting picked on with special mean-spiritedness these days.

The recent exchange between yourself and Mel White provided me with the opportunity to decide to take a stand. Due to the information you both published, I can only side with Mel White, and will be sending a contribution immediately to Ground Zero to express my distress with groups such as Focus on the Family, as well as the more radical Christian Coalition, American Family Association, Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for America, Traditional Values Colation and any number of groups which seem to me to be exercising principles which are dangerous to Christians, to American citizens, and to people generally.

Wonderful Full Pager
Keep up the good work
- put me on your mailing list

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS, INC., MONA CHAREN, NAMBLA, FOCUS ON THE FAMILY AND THAT RADICAL GROUND ZERO

by Franklin Whitworth

During the recent fast by Mel White, Focus on the Family continued to re-enforce its reputation for vilification and misuse of facts to create an atmosphere of hate and fear in two different articles.

In the first of these, the sages of Focus dredge up the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc., an issue misreported by conservative carpetbagger Mona Charen last Spring. The issue, as they see it, is that this band of homosexual AIDS educators allowed graphic AIDS education materials, designed to have an impact in very difficult-to-reach communities in New York and, hopefully, to save some lives, to fall into the hands of innocent children and that this is their regular procedure.

Several months ago, *Ground Zero News* printed the editorial below in response to the original charges:

Myth v. Reality: The Gay Men's Health Crisis Center (GMHC) Controversy In her column of March 14, 1994, nationally syndicated writer, Mona Charen, reported in an opinion piece on an incident in which children were given graphic AIDS brochures by the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center. It is essential to realize that Miss Charen, who espouses a right wing philosophy, often writes articles that are as much meant to accomplish a political end as to adhere strictly to factual reporting. Colorado for Family Values, who thrives on seeds of truth planted in mounds of manure, have seized on the Charen article to create a political football. It is a real shame that through this type of irresponsible hatemongering, the real result is the weakening of a volunteer organization that has accomplished great things in the battle to prevent AIDS and slow its spread and to assist those who now have AIDS or who are HIV Positive irrespective of sexual orientation. The truths are simple. Some teenagers did gain access to graphic AIDS Education Material in NYC. THIS IS ABOUT ALL, HOWEVER, THAT CAN BE SAID TO BE TRUE IN THE ARTICLE. The GMHC was asked to table (hand out materials) at a conference of AIDS Caregivers and Peer Educators at The NYU Medical Center along with nineteen other groups. They were not the organizers of the event. Included in this audience, and indeed a large part of it, were teens who were trained as AIDS educators, a unique program using teens to teach there own peers about AIDS. These were not naive children off the streets but, rather, those who had a very deep knowledge of AIDS, its causes and its consequences. The materials in question were indeed graphic. They are specifically designed to be used in what can best be described as "ghetto" situations where being judgmental and speaking in socially acceptable terms would bring no positive results. It is against GMHC policy for these brochures and materials to be given to non-adults. THEY HAVE ADMITTED A BREACH OF THIS POLICY IN RELATION TO THIS CONFERENCE AND THEY HAVE TIGHTENED CONTROL OF THESE DOCUMENTS FOR FUTURE DISTRIBUTION.The problem here is that Colorado for Family Values, and others like them, have chosen to make this a major, wide scale happening of deep social consequence for their own political purposes. It was not. These graphic materials were not given out in public schools or on the streets to naive and innocent children. An error was made and admitted to. Corrective measures were taken to prevent this from happening in the future. Taking this incident and trying to build yet another myth is typical of CFV and just another in a long line of such activity. GMHC has won many national and international awards for the work it is doing in the AIDS epidemic. It deserve the support and admiration of all Americans. To take an error in judgement, freely admitted to, and try to turn it into a "Cause Celebre" reeks of bad politics driven by a false cause.

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GMHC Executive Director, Jeff Richardson, also responded to the allegations by Charen and the ill conceived and politically driven response by the Radical Right, including Focus on the Family and Colorado for Family Values, in a letter to Chancellor Ramon Cortines of the New York Board of Education. We take the liberty of reprinting this letter below:

Dear Mr. Cortines:

I am writing to you about GMHC's participation in the Conference for Peer Educators held on February 12, 1994. I would like to correct any misconceptions about GMHC's involvement in that conference, and to explain our policies regarding the distribution of educational materials.

Contrary to wholly inaccurate press reports, GMHC neither organized the conference nor had any speakers there. The Conference was held at the NYU Medical Center. It was organized by the New York City Teenage and Young Adult HIV/AIDS Peer Educators, the Lower New York Consortium for Families with HIV, and the Unitarian Church for All Souls AIDS Task Force. We were one of 19 0rganizations--including Chemical Bank, the AIDS Institute of New York, the Manhattan Borough President's Office and the NYU Medical Center's Pediatrics Department--who donated money to the effort to bring HIV information to youth at risk, and our contribution was among the smallest. A photocopy of the conference program is attached.

In addition to that small contribution, GMHC's involvement was limited to accepting an invitation from the conference Steering Committee--along with ten other organizations--to have a table of literature outside the conference room. This tabling was not done inside any of the workshop conference rooms, and GMHC did not actively hand out or distribute any of its materials to conference participants.

GMHC has a long-standing policy not to distribute any adult educational materials to young people under the age of 18. We deeply regret that in spite of this policy, some young people at the conference appear to have received our adult materials. As a result, we have taken a closer look at the process that governs the distribution of our literature. We have revisited our literature distribution guidelines, and strengthened and clarified these rules to ensure that such an incident does not happen again. I have attached a copy of our revised literature distribution guidelines for your review.

attached a copy of our revised literature distribution guidelines for your review.

Let me assure you that GMHC does not distribute any HIV prevention materials or condoms in public schools without prior review or approval of school authorities. This policy applies to all Board of Education functions.

As you may know, GMHC has assisted with the planning and implementation of the Expanded HIV/AIDS Education Program/including Condom Availability since 1990. We have been instrumental in conducting HIV/AIDS team training and have been actively involved in working with members of the HIV\AIDS education teams in high schools. We have also been a resource for speakers, materials, and referrals for high schools throughout New York City. We share with you a commitment to educating the sectors of society most vulnerable to the threat of HIV infection.

We must consider the fact that AIDS cases among New York State adolescents increased 222% in the last five years, and that an estimated 20,000 adolescents in New York City alone are living with HIV. Saving young people's lives through effective AIDS prevention must be our highest priority. For adults, research has shown that frankness is the most effective way of communicating, life-saving information, and our education materials reflect that. We recognize, however, that materials must be targeted to and appropriate for different audiences.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues, and to see how we can work together to reduce the tragic toll that AIDS is taking on all our communities.

Sincerely, Jeff Richardson

****

The type of exaggeration exemplified in Focus' report of this incident is symptomatic of their treatment of the whole homosexual issue. Take, for instance, the secret memo sent out to Focus employees to explain the Fast for Understanding by Mel White. This memo was written by Paul Hetrick, who has been described as the "hatchet man" for Focus on the Family. Our own experience in a meeting with Focus bares this designation out. He spent most of his time, when not being directly confrontational and intractable, gritting his teeth and avoiding direct eye contact with any one on the "Queer" side of the table. It is interesting to note that he was even hesitant to shake hands at the beginning, quickly shaking only the very tips of our fingers, releasing them as soon as he touched them.

The memo begins:

"When homosexual activists in Colorado Springs invaded the Sunday morning church service at Village Seven Presbyterian Church six months ago, they hurt their own cause. Blowing whistles, shrieking obscenities and pelting worshippers with condoms, they further damaged their desired image as a peaceful and non-violent in the eyes of the astonished community."

Mr. Hetrick's intent here is obvious. He is setting up an atmosphere of hate and mistrust, seizing on an isolated incident to create a stereotype of all gays and lesbians designed to evoke hate and fear among Focus employees. Not only does he not accurately report what happened at Village Seven, he totally fails to report that effectively all gay and lesbian organizations in the community immediately expressed disagreement with the few people who chose to express their justifiable anger in an unacceptable manner.

Mr. Hetrick continues to expand this stereotype:

"Now, no doubt, realizing this, radical homosexual groups such as "Ground Zero" are again attempting to draw attention to their causes. ....In evaluating their current rhetoric, it appears they see public relations value in staging activities that will be seen more positively, and not leaving bitter memories in the minds of El Paso County residents."

As hard as they have tried, Focus, and Paul Hetrick, just cannot make reasonable their designation of Ground Zero, and other community GLBT groups, as radical and extremists. This attempt falls as far short of reality as have all the others. Ground Zero has, since its inception, counseled moderation and community outreach. Education is the tool we use to bring about better understanding.

In the 1.5 years of since our beginning, we have sponsored a play about Intolerance (COMPADRES), sponsored speakers, ranging from a Native American Storyteller to a noted psychotherapist. We have supplied speakers to interested organizations, supported minority community activities and scholarship funds, helped to raise $32,000 dollars for organizations combatting child abuse and Molestation, published a newsletter, held 12 informational town meetings and sponsored several "folk" and jazz concerts.

Ground Zero has only sponsored one previous rally, a protest of Chuck Asay's tasteless AIDS political cartoons--an event that was held in an orderly and reasonable manner at the Gazette office, having been coordinated with the CS police to insure safety and minimal disruption to traffic and the neighborhood.

Ground Zero held approximately 12 monthly candlelight vigils in Acacia Park, observing the passage of Amendment Two, that were characterized by the singing of several songs and hymns, one or more short speeches and a closing. We observed the one year anniversary of the passage of Amendment Two with a quiet three block candlelight walk to the Congregational Church, where we held a service and lecture.

No event Ground Zero has ever held has resulted in the slinging of epitaphs, foul language or hate, nor have we ever attempted directly, or indirectly, to disrupt a meeting, church service or other activities by those who attack us and our rights.

What then makes Ground Zero a "RADICAL" organization? Perhaps the most "radical" thing we ever did was to endorse the concept of the boycott as one of a list of many ways that individuals and companies could send a message in regard to their feelings about Amendment Two. Not only did we not work actively in support of the boycott, we actually helped several groups get over objections of their membership so that they could come and we, in at least once instance, helped a hotel get a convention to

(continued pg.12, RADICAL GZ)

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING OUT

BY BOB MONE, GZ PRESIDENT

Because of all the events Ground Zero held in July I am rushing to get this article finished, but like I said at the Pro Family Rally, you're my family and I have to believe you'll forgive me if I don't make perfect sense. I just thought it was important to communicate what affected me most during the week of Mel Whites' fast in front of Focus on the Family. During the time we were planning the fast with Mel I had my expectations (and worries) about what would happen. I have to confess that I was making the mistake of obsessing on what would go wrong. My dreams during those nights were of kamikaze fundamentalist snipers and religious loudmouths screaming through loud speakers. What really transpired during those days and nights were very different, thank Goddess.

Many things happened during the fast that lifted my spirit and warmed my heart that I wish I could share with everyone. But the one thing that amazed me more than anything was the unbelievable amount of people who came to the fast sight day and night (in some cases late late night) that were completely in the closet but came to say thank you. My belief that I was only one of a handful of gay men in this town was completely shattered. For some, just coming to the fast sight was the most "out" thing they had ever done. I could see the absolute terror in some of their eyes and although there was a near constant flow of these people during the week, each with a different but similar story, my amazement and sadness for them never diminished. I can't tell you how frustrating it is to head an organization when most of the people you represent are not visible. So the one lesson that was reinforced for me during the fast was the vital importance for us to be "out". That's right folks, OUT! OUT! OUT! Closets are for dirty laundry and not for our lives. The fact that we were visible during that week gave some the strength to finally take that first important step (we all take) and come out themselves.

The process of coming out is unique for all of us and that's o.k. The important part is that we're in the process. Everyone I know is in some part of that coming out process. Some are out to everyone they come in contact with, others are only out to their friends. Some only come out to their therapist, and then of course there are those that aren't even out to themselves (Kevin Tebedo are you listening?) The truth is that for us coming out is an almost never ending process. Unless you wear the scarlet "Q" on your forehead most people still won't get it and will assume you're (God forbid) straight, and under the circumstances that our community faces today it's up to us to let people know our orientation. Of course I could go on for days about this subject so I'm going to simplify it by saying we have one way to fight this vicious assault on our lives and that's to show the world who we are: caring, loving, intelligent and respectful law abiding tax paying spiritual human beings. We won't convince everyone, but I believe that when most people are faced with the decision to believe either the propaganda spewed out by the likes of CFV and Focus on the Family, or real live tangible evidence like a warm hearted human being, I have to believe most people will see the truth and pick the later. To accomplish this we must come out in droves. Lesbians standing next to gay men and trangendered people next to bisexuals and all of us interlocking hands to form a barrier of living human truth that can never be broken and which will stand the test of time and injustice. If we remain silent and divided the lies about us will stand uncontested and effective for the radical right and their plan to eliminate us from society. So for those of you who are running further into the closet, turn around and step out into the kitchen and join the rest of us because it's much warmer there and besides that we're frying up CFV' favorite dinner: Pigs in a Blanket!

(Continued from pg.12, Radical GZ)

come to the Springs.

Fundamentalist and right wing organizations continually use boycotts and the threat of boycotts to coerce others to submit to their will. It is a time honored tradition of the American community just as the Fast has become a time honored method of pointing out inequities by the Civil Rights community.

What then is the justification for Focus on the Family to attempt to pin a "radical" label on Ground Zero. There can be no other reason than that we disagree with their vision for America and we believe that gays and lesbians should be included in Civil Rights protection. Toward that end, we work through education, community outreach and coalition building.

The other sponsors of the Fast for Understanding were "Parents , Friends, and Families of Gays and Lesbians, The Pikes Peak Metropolitan Church, Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center PrideFest Committee and La Guia Hispanic Caucus, none of whom have a record locally, or nationally, for any form of so-called "radicalism."

The whole vilification thing can best be exemplified in Focus', and the radical right's fixation on the group known as NAMBLA. Recently, Focus said that until it became politically expedient, the Gay and Lesbian community never denounced NAMBLA.

NAMBLA is nothing more than a group of perverts out on the fringe. It is not, nor has it ever been, an acceptable part of the gay and lesbian community. Most of us didn't even know what the letters stood for until CFV brought them to the forefront. They are no more a part of our community than Pete Peters of Laporte, Co. (Death to all Homosexuals), the head of a KKK oriented church congregation, David Duke, David Karesch and the KKK are to the Fundamentalist community. In fact, one does not hear Fundamentalists going out of their way to condemn or question these people today, and THEY never did prior to it becoming politically expedient.

One final note, in his memo to his employees, Paul Hetrick urged Focus' employees not to interact in any way with Mel White or the homosexuals, leaving that, one would presume, to the big boys. At least eight employee ignored this warning, however, and did journey to the trailer, usually after dark in friend's cars, to talk with Mel. Two just wanted to hear a different point of view and expressed some problems with the Fundamentalist approach to homosexuality, even though they objected to homosexuality on moral grounds; five admitted to being gay or lesbian; one expressed difficulties in his own sexual identification and three brought copies of the employee memorandum to us.

It is interesting to note that in a press statement, Focus officials stated unequivocally that they had no homosexual employees.

EDITORIAL

Misuse of Fact and The Process of Vilification as Seen in Tom Minnery's Letter

It is absolutely essential that Ground Zero respond to Tom Minnery's letter of July 25, 1994 ("All child abuse opposed"). Ground Zero would like to thank Tom for recognition of the fact that the overwhelming amount of child abuse is heterosexual. Dr. Carol Jenny of the Denver Children's Hospital has just published a year long study that demonstrates somewhat less than 3% of Child Abuse can be tracked to homosexuals. Even if we accept the figures referred to by Mr. Minnery as the total incidence of homosexuals in the general population, this would mean that homosexuals are no more, and no less, responsible for child abuse than are heterosexuals. This is a reasonable and honest evaluation.

This is about as far as Mr. Minnery and his Public Policy Department go in representation of honesty. He, and those of his ilk, have ridden the NAMBLA horse til its about to drop. He has to know that NAMBLA is no more significant to the gay community than extremist like Pete Peters of Laporte (the "death to all homosexuals" man) and his KKK friends, snake handlers and David Koresch are to the fundamentalist community. Yet, until these types become significant because they are in the news, We cannot recall the extreme right rushing out to condemn them.

NAMBLA is an organization that has existed on the fringe for years. When they march in the few cities that they are allowed, they are pelted with garbage and have to be protected by police from the gay spectators. And we are sorry, Mr. Minnery, but the secondary march in New York last month with 7,500 people had nothing to do with NAMBLA. These were people marching because they believed a strong enough stance was not being taken by the main march on the question of AIDS. Every major gay organization has, since NAMBLA was brought to their attention, denounced and excluded this perverted organization. It may interest you to know that many of us in the gay and lesbian community didn't even know what the letters NAMBLA stood for until CFV came along.

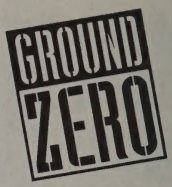
Mr. Minnery tries to imply that advertising in the ADVOCATE, one of the nation's largest gay news publications, is full of ads inviting child abuse and molestation, yet a survey done by Ground Zero of that magazine found no ad that encouraged that activity. That includes the ADVOCATE news magazine, that could be the largest publication, and the one called the ADVOCATE CLASSIFIEDS, that is not anywhere near the largest, and may be one of the smallest. It is usually given away in bars.

Also Mr. Minnery misrepresents what the platform of the March in Washington said about ages of consent. At no time did it request that these laws be relaxed. It does call for "an end to abuse and exploitation of and discrimination against youth." If anyone wishes a copy of that document, Ground Zero would be happy to supply it if they would send a self-addressed and stamped envelope with the request to P. O. Box 1982, Cos., Co. 80901.

One last misrepresentation: The *San Francisco Sentinel* states unequivocally, Mr. Minnery, that the quote you attribute to them was never published in their newspaper.

Transgendered people, some of whom have marched in every Pride Parade since its inception, are largely people who deserve and must have the same rights and inclusion as any other law abiding citizen. Transgendered issues are deep and complex and transgendered people often have difficulty on agreeing on some of the most important of those. Transgendered people are overwhelmingly loving, law abiding citizens who cause no one harm and pose no threat to anyone. The right wing vilification of them is as reprehensible as is its hysterical vilification of gays and lesbians.

Ground Zero's Volunteer Sheet



Ground Zero is an all volunteer non-profit organization. To survive we need and accept all help that is offered. There are many different volunteer positions available and no experience is necessary to participate. Thank you for your support and we believe you will find your volunteer experience at Ground Zero is self - fulfilling and beneficial to the community.

Please print and fill in all information, Thank You.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone #: ( )_____

When is the best time to contact you?_____

Please be specific in what days and times you are available to volunteer

_____

_____

_____

Below is a list of areas where there is an ongoing need for volunteers. Please circle any that you would like to become involved with.

Office Aid	Fundraiser	Information Distributor
Journalists	Telemarketer	Grant Writer
Word Processor	Media	Data Entry

If there are other areas of interest, or you have any qualifications or skills that you would like to offer, please explain in this section.

_____

_____

_____

_____

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

The 1993 Glen Eyrie Conference

by Tom Sandoval

Colorado for Family Values, a militant fundamentalist movement located in Colorado Springs and creators of the Amendment 2 campaign, has been for the last year engaging in the sale and export of its own brand of anti-gay propaganda. Across the country, religious zealots hungry for instructions on how to wage war on Americans they dislike are stealthily organizing campaigns based on the experiences of seasoned hate groups such as CFV to harass, deceive and manipulate the citizens in their areas into sanctioning hatred of gays through public opinion and hostile referenda.

Correspondence Course

To these ends, CFV has condensed its strategy into a multimedia kit containing the template for Christian based anti-gay activity dealing with all the methods used by CFV to install discrimination into the Colorado Constitution. The kit, priced at $95, also creates a relationship between buyer and seller in which "special rights" to the resources of CFV is granted in the form of speakers, ballot wording, a "private support number", and "personalized follow-up" by CFV leadership. Though CFV has gone to great lengths to conceal and restrict access to this handbook, the Massachusetts-based Institute for First Amendment Studies recently obtained and distributed copies of this course to groups nationwide.

Selective Admissions

For the sake of secrecy and control, the documents and audio tapes are not easily accessible. CFV, ever an advocate of stealth, does not want the public at large to know that this kit exists and that CFV is an active participant in pushing the ideologies of the religious right into public policy. Therefore the earnest group with the requisite cash must also pass a thorough investigations of its right wing credentials as well as interviews with the pastors that the group associates with.

Once the CFV leadership is satisfied, the doors to the Academy are opened and the instruction begins. The course is based on the product of the first conference held in April, 1993 in the Glen Eyre headquarters of the Navigators, a religious publishing group. Twenty-nine right wing activists met to listen CFV principals Kevin Tebedo and Will Perkins and other right wing heavies glorify their battles for "family values".

Seating Chart

The attendees ranged from representatives of the Colorado Traditional Values Coalition, Focus on the Family, New Mexico Christian Coalition members, Ohio christian activists Doug Montgomery and Phil Burress, Alaskan anti-gay activist Mike Johnston, rogue psychologist Paul Cameron, Rev. James Lyle of the Boulder Valley Vineyard Church and pal of noted homophobe and CU football coach Bill McCartney, rural Colorado ranchers, and others.

Mission Statement

"CFV wants to be a resource..Our goal is to be able to take (anti-gay organizing materials) and provide it out to you," spoke Kevin Tebedo in his initial remarks to students. "It's our fervent hope that (you) will use this wealth of information to wage entirely new...more effective battles for fairness and family values."

Financial Aid

Not only did CFV take information and "provide it out" to attendees but shortly after the conference, CFV contributed $400,000 in cash to the efforts of Ohio group Equal Rights, not Special Rights, created by conference alumni Doug Montgomery to repeal gay-positive ordinances in Cincinnati and other Ohio cities. This landed CFV in some hot water, as such contributions violate the tax exempt non-profit status of CFV and placed its activities squarely in the Political Action Committee arena. Ohio courts have promised to investigate this relationship, much to CFV's chagrin.

Course Syllabus

Conference members were instructed in wording ballots, justifying discrimination as legitimate choice through dispassionate rhetoric, how to utilize direct-mail, prospecting for donations, identifying voter blocs using Republican voter lists, creation of sensationalistic and outrageously biased media for door-to-door leafletting, accessing radio and print media, speaking to and organizing previously apolitical churches and various other tactics, with an emphasis on staying below the media radar. Counselors encouraged students to not present their rhetoric in religious contexts to avoid overt Christian identification. Tebedo remarked " to take a stand against evil..we don't even have to talk about Jesus all the time. We don't even have to talk about the Bible. Unless we frame the issues in terms of fundamental freedoms...we'll appear to have less to lose than the homosexuals."

Tebedo relates to his disciples that stealth tactics are essential in keeping the politics of the group concealed by picking obscure and unknown leaders who "are not viewed as having any baggage."

The campaign laid out to students a heady curriculum combining grassroots organizing, political arm-twisting, utilization of Republican and Christian infrastructure and donor lists. Four points permeated goals of the course: Pamphleteering vs. Mass Media, Persuasion over Provocation, Attention to Tone and Public Relations Over Self Centered Media Decisions, and Civil Rights over "Bible Thumping."

Minority Recruitment

CFV found that minority voters were essential swing voters if they could be turned against gays by being made to believe that that their civil rights were threatened. Indeed, CFV convinced certain " minority leaders" to join their board and recite CFV dogma for convenient inclusion into CFV literature. CFV conceded that minority community leaders were primarily "quite liberal" and viewed Amendment 2 support ers as "ultra-right wing", making them an unreliable voter bloc. Indeed, Tebedo laments that "to go out and dig {people of color} up" is potentially fruitless due to the fact that gay activists "got there" first. Homophobe Cameron also "dismissed" African-American voter blocs as fertile ground in remarks found in 'Spotlight on Hate."

ROTC Target Practice

Militant Christians like CFV faithful tend to see their struggles in the context of the battlefield, much like coach Bill McCartney likes to interject religious imagery into the supposedly secular world of sports and business. One particularly telling piece of religious fascination with battlefield scenarios is a statement made by Pat Robertson: "the strategy against the...radical left..should be the same as Gen. McArthur employed against the Japanese in the Pacific: bypass their strongholds, isolate them, bombard them then blast the individuals out of their power bunkers with hand-to-hand combat...the battle won't be pleasant but we will win it."

The aim of CFV is hardly benign when taken in light of statements made by CFV communications director Mark Olsen in describing the Amendment 2 campaign literature and methods

Chest Implants

One of the key victories CFV can celebrate is the conversion of attitudes in the vital swing voter bloc. The leadership took the greatest liability it had- the advocation of knee-jerk homophobia and turned it into a victory by assuring voters that they could harness their aversion to gays for a purpose that the secrecy of the ballot allowed them to conceal. Couching the debate in the context of preserving family values, fairness and civil rights, the ulterior motive was obscured and legitimized in the minds of the wavering voter. The task was to build a bridge between a voters prejudices and their voting behavior. Using a twisted analogy, the plan called swing voters "voters without chests" in reference to C.S. Lewis' "Men Without Chests" described in his conservative tract "The Abolition of Man". Lewis derides those who he claims cannot reconcile their heads with their hearts due to a barrier (known as a conscience) that they construct that prevents them from acting irrationally. Intellect, says CFV was once the enemy of morality. By relating a sense of intellectuality to the anti-gay measure, CFV claimed they could get a person to bypass his or her conscience and say they had an intellectual reason to vote for Amendment 2. This came primarily by framing it in the aforementioned civil rights context, denial or minimization of actual discrimination suffered by gays, The effort utilized wholly misrepresented statistics related to gay's incomes and lifestyles in an attempt to exploit class envy by portraying gays as powerful and influential people who suffer no "real" minority discrimination.

This required assuring voters that discrimination was a choice and not a malicious act if one was able to address it intellectually as some sort of market-based activity devoid of strongly charged emotion. Olsen, in this frighteningly unapologetic and somewhat confusing analogy on confronting "the D-word" says "In the past, one used to refer to discriminating shoppers... does this mean {shoppers} did not frequent African-American stores? No, it meant that those people were astute at making choices." This twist provided the material needed to convince voters that discrimination was an All-American choice mantled in free market romanticism.

Commencement Address

CFV strives to present itself as the the high minded, non-judgmental voice of reason. Given the content of the speakers message in the audio tapes and the literature provided to Ground Zero, nothing could be further than the truth. Some examples:

" facts don't hate, they just are" -Mark Olsen

" Now I have an intellectual reason for voting yes on Amendment 2. They {gays} are not oppressed. They make a lot of money. They do just fine. I can vote yes and not have to tell anyone the way I really feel." -Kevin Tebedo in the role of a wavering voter.

" Sexuality is not yours. Your body is not your own. You are not entitled to sexual pleasure. You may...probably have some sexual fun, but that is fairly small in the Christian scheme of things."- Paul Cameron

" Its nothing less than a struggle for the hearts and minds of our people...Now we are the adversarial culture...we had better start...by compelling a return to reason and to eternal, universal and absolute values {by} remaining committed to the standard of one right, one law and one nation..." psychologist Paul Kuchta.

Alumni Update

Since the conference, CFV has had its alumni engage in skirmishes in Oregon, Florida, Texas, Ohio and Mississippi. Graduates of this course have adapted the CFV model to strike out against human rights ordinances, domestic-partner legislation, and other gay positive issues. Homophobic Ohioans are now organizing to rally support around an agenda meant to influence votes on local and state levels by "outing" those who they perceive to be gay friendly politicians and using this single issue to differentiate a "family values" candidate from a "pro-homosexual" one.

The most damning evidence of CFV's true intentions is its association by way of an IDENTICAL mission statement adopted by the Mississippians for Family Values satellite now harassing two lesbians in for attempting to found a lesbian compound known as Camp Sister Spirit. "Civil" and "compassionate" mannerisms called for by the author of the statement have ranged from threatening phone calls and petty arson to gunshots fired from trucks at night towards to camp. Perhaps CFV's Olson was right . Facts can make people want to pick up a gun. And commit crime in the name of Jesus. Its all how you can put an intellectual face on hate.

Tom will explore *Operation Spotlight*, the Ohio Right Wing Plan featured at Glen Eyrie in '94 in the next issue

INSIDE GLEN EYRIE CASTLE

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In 1990, "The Freedom Writer announced the "rebirth" of the religious right. At that time, many observers thought the movement had run out of steam. Insiders knew better. "By the end of the decade," declared evangelist Paul Cain, "the whole earth will view the church in a different light. The church will no longer be mocked and despised, but either loved or feared."

Our readers were among the first to learn of the religious right's new two-fold plan of attack. In a simple, but effective move, the religious right changed its focus from national politics to local politics. Additionally, the hard right abandoned its haphazard approach to politics and instituted long-term planning to achieve its ultimate objectives.

Now, the mainstream media is working hard to bring its reporting up to speed. Recently, "The New York Times" reported on the religious right's efforts to take over the Republican Party. In the Nov/Dec 1991 issue of "The Freedom Writer, Frederick Clarkson wrote that the Christian Coalition "intends to take over the Republican Party from the inside, and elect thousands of right-wing Christians to state and local office--as well as the Congress--through a massive and disciplined bloc of voters." He continued, "At their recent 'Road to Victory' national leadership conference in Virginia Beach, almost every session was devoted to instruction in the mechanics of how to do it."

At that 1991 "Road to Victory" conference, Gary Bauer, of the Family Research Council (an arm of Dr. Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry) set the tone for the conference: "Obviously, this conference is about the 1992 elections," he said. The reason this and all elections are important, Bauer observed, is because "We are engaged in a social, political, cultural civil war."

While effective, the strategy of focusing on local elections and planning for the long-haul is not enough. A movement requires another ingredient. For years, in the shadow of communism, the hard right had a villain. And they milked it for all it was worth. The religious right took it a step further and ferociously attacked "secular humanism," the philosophy the Rev. Tim LaHaye called "the world's most dangerous religion."

With the fall of communism, however, the hard right lost a valuable element of its crusade. The movement was desperately in need of a new devil. For a while, the hard right rode on the wave of anti-abortion sentiment. Abortion is a losing political issue, though, and the religious right has, to a large degree, let the ultra-radicals in the movement deal with it. (One should not think that the fight to preserve choice is over. In some ways, that war is intensifying, simply because of the radical element carrying on the fight against abortion rights.

The radical right thinks it has found the missing ingredient, the important social issue to galvanize the movement. It is "the militant homosexuals," or the "gay agenda."

For almost three years now, the majority of fund raising material coming from the religious right has focused on gay rights. These vicious and hysterical fund raising letters are proven moneymakers. Most of the top religious right groups have picked up on this theme.

Groups such as the Oregon Citizens Alliance, and Colorado for Family Values (CFV), started fighting gay rights in their states at the "grass roots." They introduced the term "special rights" to imply that gays and lesbians wanted more than equal rights. Only recently have larger national groups become involved in strategy and planning.

CFV succeeded in passing Colorado's Amendment 2, which denied equal protection for gays and lesbians. Amendment 2, the only statewide anti-gay rights measure to be approved by voters, was struck down by Colorado courts as unconstitutional.

Encouraged by its limited success, CFV held a small conference last year to discuss future strategy. As a result, CFV produced "The Colorado Model," a workbook designed to help anti-gay activists in other states ban gay rights. The $95 workbook came with nine audio tapes featuring the conference speakers. A newer version comes with two video tapes. Conference speakers appear on one. The other video, "The Gay Agenda" greatly influenced Colorado's vote against gay rights.

Because leaders of religious right groups around the country responded so favorably to CFV's material and leadership in fighting gay rights, the Colorado groups scheduled another conference.

According to a May 19, 1994 article in *The Washington Times*, "Leaders of anti-homosexual-rights groups across the nation wrapped up two days of top-secret meetings" in Colorado Springs. Representatives for about 35 states and national religious right organizations attended the meeting, according to the article. The purpose of the meeting concerned policy and strategy in dealing with the gay rights movement in the United States.

The Washington Times reporter, Valerie Richardson, noted that she was banned from the meeting because the sponsoring group, Colorado for Family Values, attempted to suppress media coverage. Nevertheless, Richardson's article got our attention and contained enough data for the "The Freedom Writer" to launch an investigation of the clandestine conference.

The conference, *The Washington Times* article said, took place at the "gated" Glen Eyrie Conference Center. Glen Eyrie is operated by the Navigators, an evangelical group based in Colorado Springs.

The Freedom Writer commissioned a researcher and a photographer in Colorado Springs to go out to the conference center and look around. After clearance from security people at the main gate, the two enjoyed limited access to the grounds.

The centerpiece of Glen Eyrie is a massive stone castle. Various dwelling places, or dormitories, dot the surrounding mountainous landscape. The CFV conference, attended by about 40 people, was held on a second floor meeting room in the castle.

Some members of conservative Christian groups in Colorado Springs provided helpful information, and, bit-by-bit, we pieced together the names of most of the people from about twenty states who attended the conference. In talking with some of them, we confirmed names, and gathered more information.

Some individuals interviewed by the *The Freedom Writer"*for this article were extremely close-mouthed, while others even denied attending. One, in particular, was deceitful. Representative Darlene Cornfield of Kansas told The Freedom Writer, "I was not there. I don't know where that came from! I don't know why anyone would say I was there when I wasn't!"

Judy Thomas, a reporter for *The Wichita Eagle* , told *The Freedom Writer* that Jim McDavitt of the Kansas Education Watch Network told her that he attended the conference with Darlene Cornfield. The significance of a state representative at this meeting was not lost; that's why we called Cornfield.

Cornfield, a conservative Christian, is up for reelection in November. Outspoken about her beliefs, Cornfield told *The Freedom Writer*, "I believe the lord wanted me in the Legislature." She told us that she is anti-choice, and opposed to gay rights. "I just believe the Bible from cover to cover," she said.

Asked if there is any reason she wouldn't want someone to know she attended a conference of this type, Cornfield responded, "Of course not, everything I do is wide open."

Next we called the Kansas Education Watch Network and talked to "Mary" McDavitt's secretary. She said McDavitt was away, and she denied knowing anything about any conference in Colorado Springs. We learned later that McDavitt was away speaking at a religious right conference in Ind. Apparently, McDavitt told Judy Thomas of *The Wichita Eagle* that the conference dealt with a number of different issues--not just gay rights. However, this was not the case. It focused solely on devising a strategy to deprive gays and lesbians of equal rights.

The whole story came out when someone in Colorado Springs obtained conference tapes from the Navigators. Recordings of the ten conference speakers on seven tapes.

One speaker, Robert Skolrood, president of the National Legal Foundation, even referred to the wonderful work in Kansas of Darlene Cornfield, "who is sitting in the audience."

One conference attendee, Patricia Houston of WARRIORS NOT WIMPS FOR JESUS, based in Las Cruces, New Mexico, offered high praise for Jim McDavitt of Kansas. "He was on fire for the Lord!" she told *The Freedom Writer.* "He had information much further along than anyone else. I learned a lot from him.

Houston expressed surprise that not everyone at the conference was not a born-again Christian. She mentioned that one of the speakers, Judith Reisman, is Jewish. Houston said that McDavitt "witnessed strongly" to Reisman, trying to convert her.

"It was nice to see a legislator there," Houston continued, referring to Darlene Cornfield. According to Houston, McDavitt and Cornfield came together.

Houston said she attended the conference with Margaret Kramer, a spokesperson for a New Mexico group called Mothers Against Bad Government. According to Houston, the religious right of New Mexico is concerned about legislators who support gay rights.

"We have two people," said Houston, "two of our most powerful legislators, who openly endorse the homosexual movement." "One of them," she added, "has a son who is homosexual." "The legislator with the gay son," she claimed, "is Manny Aragon, and the other legislator is Raymond Sanchez."

Since 1973, another legislator, Tom Rutherford, has been, according to Houston, "introducing pro-homosexual legislation." "Though he's never come out and announced it," Houston said, "I've since found out he is homosexual."

Houston said that she was impressed by the number of men at the conference, including Jim Woodall, a vice president for management of Concerned Women for America. "You know, men are the leaders of the country," she said.

According to Will Perkins, the purpose of the conference was "to come out of here with a plan...how we can impact this nation--our groups, our collective voices out there. If we have a good, strong, coordinated approach..they don't know who to shoot at if we have all of us out there."

"We need to hold pastors and churches and denominations accountable," Perkins continued, "who are condoning homosexual behavior. And [we need to] make the public realize that they are condoning adultery, fornication, bestiality, and polygamy."

"I feel," Perkins said, "that there is not a more important meeting being held in these United States as is being held here these next two days. If we lose this battle, there are no more moral absolutes left for this nation."

Robert Linden, the conference moderator picked up Perkin's theme. "The absolute values that were established by God," he proclaimed, "are still absolute."

John Eldridge, the first speaker, brought "greetings and warm regards from Dr. Dobson of Focus on the Family." "DR. DOBSON," Eldridge told the group, "and those of us at Focus on the Family in the public policy fight, see this issue as one of the key issues of our time. So much hinges on what happens with the full agenda of the militant gay movement."

Eldridge outlined an agenda for the religious right to follow. The agenda must:

* Change public perception about gay rights
*Use ideas and language that appeal to the public
*Create the impression that the anti-gay movement is a grass roots movement
*Use lay people to keep the anti-gay movement going.

THE ORGANIZED ASSAULT ON GAY RIGHTS

BY SKIPP PORTEOUS

*Develop a long-term project to convince evangelical pastors to support the anti-gay movement.

We need to "tell America WHY heterosexuality is best for individuals and society." "That case," he said, "needs to be made strongly, and supported by what Americans consider 'gospel truth' --that is empirical science. That is the high priest of our culture."

"Shrewdly," Eldridge continued, "we need to show why society needs to make certain demands on people sexually." He added that public perception has to be changed. "We must never appear to be attempting to rob anyone of their rights--their constitutional rights. We must never appear to be mean spirited or bigoted. We must be shrewd to get consensus for our position by appealing to shared values and concern, and issues of fairness and justice."

Eldridge stressed that the anti-gay movement must be "perceived as a genuine grass roots uprising." He said that "home rule" is important, because a top-down approach doesn't work. If a community perceives that an outside, national group is behind local activism, the community will rebel against it. So, the perception of grassroots organizing, or home rule, is critical. He explained that this is why Focus on the Family is staying in the background. His national group, he noted, is like an 800-pound giant compared to Colorado for Family Values, which has a half dozen people in a one-room office. (During the conference, Frank York of Focus on the Family admitted that Focus on the Family now has a $150 million dollar-a-year budget. [Ed. note-Ground Zero readers are directed to the attack by Dr. Dobson on Mel White when he repeated this figure. Dobson claims that the real budget is a mere $97 million. Obviously, the right hand doesn't know how much the left is taking in at Focus].)

"I would not say this in other cultural contexts," Eldridge explained, "but the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn. It is destroying the souls of those who embrace it." John Eldridge said several things troubled him greatly. "As an evangelical, there is no question that the church, being a house divided--having Mel Whites, Peggy Campolos, and that sort of thing--is extraordinarily damaging to our movement. (Mel White is the gay ghost writer who formerly worked with Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, and Oliver North. He tells his extraordinary experience in his fascinating book, Stranger at the Gate. Peggy Campolo is the wife of the popular evangelical motivational speaker Tony Compolo. The Campolos have expressed sympathy for gay rights.)

More than one speaker, including Eldridge, said that the anti-gay rights movement is being led by lay people, not the clergy. "Pastors are terrified that this issue will split their churches," Eldridge remarked. "The local church is a mess. The pastors are a long-term project."

Robert Skolrood, president of the National Legal Foundation also expressed ill feelings towards evangelical ministers. **"Our pastors don't know anything,"** Skoolrood declared. **"AND MOST OF THEM ARE WIMPS."**

Skolrood, an attorney who formerly worked for Pat Robertson, sometimes speaks more like a faith healer than a lawyer. He describes the war against gay right as "a spiritual battle" and spoke of the need to keep "demons from polluting the word of God."

Pastors aren't the only ones avoiding the controversial gay rights issue, Skolrood said, but "Christian legal organizations don't want to touch the issue." He said his group is available to help other groups initiate state referendums against gay rights.

Frank York, another Focus on the Family spokesperson, also addressed the gathering. He focused on computer and fax technology, which he explained "is an essential part of the battle we're in." York encouraged the group to use computers and facsimile machines to broadcast communications to: phone trees, congressmen and other politicians, conservative college newspapers, and churches.

Besides using computers to communicate within the religious right, York suggested that computers be used to gather intelligence on the enemy. "You have to know your enemy," he said. "Gays and lesbians are a large part of the Internet."

Monitoring on-line computer services, York said, "is an intelligence gathering operation. They're not aware that you're gathering information. It's very important to gather intelligence this way." He claimed that by monitoring online computer services he learned in advance of a lesbian sit-in at Focus on the Family.

One speaker, Judith Reisman, a self-professed sex expert, perpetrated the myth that gays try to recruit heterosexuals, bringing them into "the homosexual lifestyle."

"I would suggest to you," she said, "that while the homosexual population may right now be one to two percent, hold your breath, people, because the recruitment is loud; it is clear; it is everywhere. You'll be seeing, I would say, twenty percent or more, probably thirty percent, or even more than that, of the young population, will be moving into homosexual activity."

Buzz Harris, who works with Sue Hyde in the New England office of the National Gay and Lesbian task Force's "Fight the Right Project," said, "They want to stoke the flames of internalized homophobia in an attempt to 'convert' us to heterosexuality." "It is irrelevant," he continued, "to their closed-minded world view that the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the U. N.'s World Health Organization have all stated for many years that bisexuality and homosexuality are a normal and healthy part of human love and sexual expression."

In concluding her talk, Reisman said, "You will not ever be able to do anything about homosexuality until you address pornography in the church, pornography in your own lives; it is interlocked and related."

After all the speakers made their presentations, the group held a series of brainstorming sessions. The final session led to the top two "Primary Strategies."

Comprised of two main parts, the first "Primary Strategy" involves "Information and Data Exchange," and "Media." "Under "Information and Data Exchange," the group aims to establish a computer network using a bulletin board service (BBS) or commercial on-line service such as America On Line (AOL). Focus on the Family, incidentally, is considering AOL, as a way to distribute some of its publications.

The second part of "Information and Data Exchange" is the development of a central clearinghouse, with different organizations handling the following responsibilities:

*A gay office holders and activists data bank
*Information resources about ministries to convert gays
*Record anti-gay successes
*Record anti-gay defeats
*Track scientific literature
*Monitor corporations/who they fund/where they spend their advertising dollars
*Religious tracking/where evangelical churches and pastors stand on gay rights
*Monitor people in the media/their stand on gay rights
*Monitor national and state political candidates and gay office holders
*Monitor crimes committed by gays
*News clipping service

The second part of the first "Primary Strategy" deals with the media. The group hopes to "get all conservative organizations united to promote a mass-media blitz on Dr. Kinzey's child abuse data, calling for investigation and cessation of all tax money funding sexuality programs, until Kinsey's scientific fraud is proven."

The second aspect of dealing with the media involves writing letters and placing phone calls. The group plans to blitz newspapers with letter, and radio talk shows with phone calls. One aspect is to "ID favorable educators and get them involved with letters to the editor and interviews."

They also plan to buy radio ads in order to "access radio programs to reveal truth of homosexual lifestyle vs. heterosexual marriage."

Finally, the media blitz involves the development of "a base of letter writers and callers who can respond on a regular basis to editorials and news stories."

The second of the two "Primary Strategies" deals with "Legislative/Legal concepts. First, the anti-gay proponents want to "enact legislation rewarding traditional families with tax rewards." Another long-term goal is to "pass resolutions in legislatures in the 50 states to affirm that the traditional mom and dad family is the superior or ideal model."

Their political agenda includes:

*Voter guides
*Precinct organization
*Leadership development
*Campaigning
*Voter education in the area of school board candidates and candidates for state legislatures
*Fund raising

Particular attention should be paid to one area of the anti-gay right agenda. It is the implementation of "Operation Spotlight." This is a highly organized and detailed model currently underway in Ohio. The goal is to take over all the legislative bodies in the state, including city councils and the state legislature. A crucial part of the plan is to identify exactly where every elected official and candidate stands on gay rights. The next step is to get 25% of the voters to sign a pledge not to vote for any candidate who supports gay rights. After the designated law-making bodies are taken over, the next step is to introduce new laws that ban gay rights. [Ed. Note--For a fuller discussion of Operation Spotlight, a more compete exploration will appear in the next *GZ News*).

The religious right is convinced that pornography and homosexuality are inextricably linked. The assumption is also made that organized crime controls most of the production of pornography. Therefore, the religious right concludes that gay rights lobbying is funded by organized crime. With this in mind, the religious right intends to "Educate the grassroots that homosexual, pornography and organized crime lobbying is [sic] one in the same."

Finally, the anti-gay rights movement is developing a litigation strategy. To do this, it plans to share research, resources, and coordinate involvement at the trial level. It intends to offer "legal support for workers being sued by homosexuals. This presumably deals with harassment in the workplace.

In its effort to deny gays and lesbians equal rights with other citizens, the religious right wants to take its agenda all the way to the Supreme Court. Currently, the movement is seeking the best case to take to the High Court. Utilizing "political experts, constitutional lawyers, and public relations experts," it has proposed the formation of an "advisory board to formulate the best case to take to the U. S. Supreme Court."

The Freedom Writer" finds it significant that Dr. James Dobson and his Focus on the Family believe that gay rights is one of the most important issues of our times. Focus on the Family is arguably the most influential of all religious rights groups, leading in resources, outreach, and organization. The involvement of Focus on the Family in the anti-gay rights movement has profound implications.

Hopefully, Americans concerned about true rights for all people, regardless of religion, race, national origin, sex, or sexual orientation, will see the anti-gay rights movement as another ploy by the radical religious right to take political power.

HONEST MISTAKE--DISHONEST USE

by Franklin Whitworth

On Wednesday, July 13, 1994, Focus on the Family issued statements attacking Mel White. True to form, those people from Focus chose to attempt to divert attention from the real issues by playing up a relative non-issue.

Early on, when the events being planned around the fast were in their infancy, this reporter wrote a story that contained an incorrect statement. That statement had to do with the relationship between Dr. James Dobson and Dr. White. I had mistakenly thought that Dr. White had written for and worked closely with Dr. Dobson. This was not true.

To correct this, as soon as I found out the truth, I issued a Press Release on July 8 that went out to approximately 100 local and national news sources. On July 10, at least one paper, the Dallas Sun, printed the retraction and correction as part of a story on the events.

Focus on the Family statements and a letter from Dr. James Dobson, issued on the 13th and 14th, all alluded to this erroneous statement and the release even said that no attempt had been made to correct it. Dr. Dobson, furthermore, accused Dr. White of fabricating the story for his own purposes when Dr. White had not even been aware of the story until I called him on July 8 to find out if I had indeed erred.

It is beyond reason to believe that Focus was not aware of the retraction, printed below. It seems more reasonable to believe that they chose to ignore that an honest error had been corrected as soon as it was discovered in order that they could use it to create a smokescreen to obscure the real issues.

With that all said, following is the Press Release. I might point out that we can document the fact that it was issued fully five days before the 13th and 14th accusations were spoken by Focus. In fact, to be sure that somehow the Fax machine had not erred, we called a number of those who are on the Fax chain list to ascertain whether or not they had received the fax. They all had.

GENERAL PRESS RELEASE

July 8, 1994

RE: DR. MEL WHITE, DR. JAMES DOBSON AND GROUND ZERO and PRESS CONFERENCE IN REGARD FAST AT FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Close to a month ago, a staffer of Ground Zero, writing an article about a rally at Focus on the Family at which Dr. Mel White is to speak, inadvertently included Dr. Dobson among those Fundamentalist leaders with whom Dr. White had counseled and for whom Dr. White had written. THIS WAS AN ERRONEOUS INCLUSION honestly made.

Dr. White did not counsel or write for Dr. Dobson. They did live in the same community, spoke on occasion, were casual acquaintances, their children went to the same schools and they briefly corresponded on collaboration on THE ELECTRIC FAMILY, a book on the effects of the media on the American Family.

At no time did Ground Zero willfully or knowingly misrepresent this information. It was indeed made apparent to us by a communique sent out by the Focus press machinery to the national media. At no time, though we have spoken to the people at Focus on the Family since the error, did Dr. Dobson or Focus try to call us to inform us of the error, which we would have immediately corrected. Dr. White never saw, nor did he input into, the erroneous early on article or the release that was gleaned from it.

No recent release has contained that mistatement as all subsequent releases have been largely written by Dr. White or have been taken directly from information supplied by Dr. White. Ground Zero apologizes for any disservice or problem that this error may have caused Focus or Dr. Dobson.

ABRAMS
jewelry design

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TWO COLORADO SPRINGS CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT FROM GAY AND LESBIAN FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

In early Winter, 1993, several members of Ground Zero began exploring the premise that there is a great deal of energy in Gay and Lesbian organizations that needs to be directed to more than just community concerns. Particularly, they felt that a great deal of good could come from directing that energy toward helping organizations working in support of all of our children to prevent and ameliorate the effects of child abuse and child molestation.

Thus was born the concept that became the *CHESHIRE COMMITTEE*, an organization with representatives from a number of gay and lesbian organizations from across the state. Together, these organizations produced THE CHESHIRE BALL-*Making Smiles for our Children.* The event was held in late April of 1994 and enjoyed sponsorship of both gay and lesbian and mainstream community organizations and individuals.

A total of $32,000 was raised by the event, held in Denver, and all of these funds were distributed to recipient organizations. Twenty-four thousand dollars has been awarded to the Child Protection Unit of The Denver Children's Hospital. Ground Zero is pleased to announce that two Colorado Springs organizations will also received grants:

KIDPOWER was established in 1989 to teach assault and abuse prevention and escape skills to young people and the adults who care for them. KIDPOWER Colorado Springs is currently forming and has been granted $5,500 by the Cheshire Committee to help with startup costs and to establish tuitions for those in need.

Citizens for Child Justice are the recipients of a $2,500 grant to assist with their activities, that are principally "To increase sensitivity on the part of the Judiciary, Prosecution and Defense, to the special needs of child victims/witnesses."

The Cheshire Committee does not concern itself with the policies or operations of these organizations nor does it dictate the administration and use of these funds except that they be used to accomplish the general goals of the organization as stated in their descriptive packages.

The Cheshire Committee has begun planning next year's event, which it believes will far outstrip the successes of this year's Ball. Additionally, there is interest from other organizations around the nation to make next year's event a coglomerate of events occurring at the same time across the country.

FOCUSING ON FOCUS

by Franklin Whitworth

Perhaps one of the more unique experiences that I was exposed to as a result of the FAST FOR UNDERSTANDING was an invitation by Focus on the Family Vice President, H. B. London, to tour the facility. A great deal of understanding descended upon me during that tour.

Until you go there and see the facility firsthand, it is impossible to envision what is happening out there. We know that they bring in almost 98 million dollars a year--that's tax free dollars boys and girls that they are free to use buying all the tax-free landscape in our fair area they want.

I mean, you didn't think that the only "tax free" property that they own in Colorado Springs is the fifty million dollar palace on the hill, did you? Admittedly, I have no first hand knowledge of what else they own--but can you in any way be led down the path to acceptance that that's all there is my friend.

Now, of course, all that "tax free" stuff means you and I pay more taxes to make up for the lost revenue to our beloved city, county and state. Doesn't that mean that I am, indirectly, being forced to support their religious activities and, indeed, their political activities to disenfranchise me from society?!

Think $98 million for a moment. By golly, that's $11,187.21 an hour (about $187 a minute, or $3.11 per second) every second, minute, hour, day, and month of the year. In less than six hours, they bring in more "tax free" dollars than Ground Zero does in a year. And in one day, they bring pretty well as much as all gay organizations in the State bring in a year. Their budget, in fact, is larger than the Vatican's--and that's a country as well as a religion.

It's like a massive assembly line out there; conveyer belts going by hundreds upon hundreds of bins, containing hundreds upon hundreds of items, from clothing and children's toys to books and videos. They mail out 250,000 pieces of mail a month If all of this goes out non-profit, bulk rate, averaging 11 cents an item, their postage per month cost them close to $30,000. Of course, all of it doesn't go out at that rate, and one can easily envision that their monthly postage bill is much larger than Ground Zero's yearly budget.

All of the funds they receive do not come from sales of merchandise, rentals, etc. Donations come in and a factory is set up to handle these as well. Dr. Dobson says that they never push donations but a call for funds has been in every piece of literature they have sent out that I have seen. People who write may not be specifically asked for money but they are forever on the mailing list--of materials that seem always to work in the appeal for financial help.

And you get answers to letters even if you don't send money--made up of composite quotes from computer banks. If you send money, you get a personal follow up phone call.

Of course, Focus started with a radio ministry, a ministry that goes on today around the world. Nobody really knows how many people hear, as well as read, Dr. Dobson every day--but it is a frightening power to be in anyone's hands. When it comes to power and influence--the ability to influence an unbelievable number of people--no one can top Dr. James Dobson and his tax free, hundred million dollar empire.

A Message from La Guia

GRACIAS GROUND ZERO!

When the idea for La Guia surfaced, a few doomsayers of the LesBiTransGay community, Hispanic and Non—Hispanic alike, responded with criticism and out-right hostility. The reaction of these few ranged from: "Come see me when you fail" or "you will divide us even more." And "why do Latinos want to discriminate against us?"

Well, months and the flood of remarks continued but we have not faltered. At times, some of the remarks were down—right racists and were meant to hurt, but then there was the other side of the gay community. Our non—hispanic, gay supporters gave us strength by propping us up when things got rough or by carrying us when we needed it most. It was they who helped identify the benefits of La Guia's existence. At the lead of all of the Southern Colorado groups who have stayed by our side is Ground Zero. No other group has done more to assure the success of La Guia as Ground Zero. In fact, we credit much of the unity within Southern Colorado to our sister organization and their efforts to bring our entire gay family together.

This is especially important since we live next door to the originators of "Amendment 2" and the "English Only Amendment." Whether statewide or nationally, no other gay community is as galvanized as is the gay community in Colorado Springs. Where else in the state have such a collage of ethnically, culturally, and ideologically different together against discrimination, hatred, and ignorance than in Colorado Springs; and at the center of the kaleidoscope of people lays Ground Zero.

It is well known that out-reach to the Hispanic LesBiTransGay community has been lacking at best, and the difficulty has been in informing those who have not been included in the past for one reason or another, but with the help and patience of Ground Zero, La Guia has been able to prosper like no other Hispanic/Latino organization in the Country

It's true that the different landscapes that both Ground Zero and La Guia individually travel differ from each other, but this is indicative of the different cultural makeup of each of our organizations. Still, the direction is the same; EQUALITY FOR ALL.

La Guia may be comprised of membership from Alamosa to Denver,and may have associate membership from Washington to San Francisco,plus individuals living in Spain, Mexico and Guantanamo Bay, but our hearts lie in the belly of the beast-Colorado Springs-along side Ground Zero as equals. For a win in the 'Springs' is a win for LesBiTransGay people everywhere.

Viva la causa

FROM PFLAG NATIONAL OFFICE

STATEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND SEX EDUCATION

MAY 22, 1994

In keeping with the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays mission statement, PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, and bisexual person and their parents,families and friends.

As an organization, PFLAG joins other noted national and international groups in recognizing that we are sexual throughout our lives and that learning about our sexuality is an integral part of living. PFLAG acknowledges that a continuum of sexualities exist, and that an individual may experience these sexualities differently throughout his or her lifetime.

To the extent that sexuality education guides our understanding of sexual behavior, PFLAG encourages the availability of comprehensive health and sex education for all persons. In addition, we endorse the premise that the primary goal of sexuality education is the promotion of sexual health and that sexuality education is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs, and values about identity, relationships and intimacy.

Of special interest to PFLAG members, which include gay, lesbian and bisexual people and their parents, family members and friends, is the need for availability of comprehensive sex education to youth. Thus, we encourage the adoption by individual schools, school districts, state departments of education and federal education agencies of official policies implementing health and sex education for young people and learners of all ages.

Also of special interest to PFLAG and its members is the need for comprehensive HIV/AIDS education. Recognizing the need for accurate and complete information about HIV\AIDS for persons of all sexualities, ethnicities, ages and backgrounds, PFLAG strongly endorses efforts to that end sponsored and conducted by community¬based groups, governmental agencies, private businesses, and others.

GROUND ZERO CO-SPONSORS PRO-EDUCATION FORUM

by FKM

The Freedom Network, a group of over 40 organizations across Colorado, of which Ground Zero is a member, recently held a three session forum entitled *Public Education Under Seige: An Ideological Assault on Our Schools.* Held at the University of Denver on June 29 and July 6 and 14, the sessions provided panels of experts and concerned citizens who addressed attacks on another segment of American Society which the political fundamentalists wish to destroy--the public schools.

The first session dealt with "The Misuse of Theology to Attack Public Education;" the second addressed "The Value of Public Education in American Society" and the third covered "Contemporary Assaults on Public Education: Outcome based Education. Sex Education, and Vouchers."

The panelists represented the clergy, politicians, educators and community members from across the country, all with extensive expertise in dealing with these problems.

What was apparent at all the sessions was that there is a growing realization that the fanatical right has a much broader agenda than is addressed by specific issues. Sex education attacks and vouchers are related because the true goal is the destruction of public education.

Ultimately, even that large area of attack is part of the real agenda of establishing a theocratic state based on the fundamentalist's very narrow definition of Christianity. Discussions around sex education and theology most directly linked gay and lesbian concerns to these issues. In comments concerning attacks on sex education it was acknowledged that homosexuality is a hot button used to stir up fear in order to remove sexuality from the curriculum.

Father Marshall Gourley of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Denver made specific reference to the lies told in pushing Amendment Two. One particularly personal experience involved all the priests, nuns and brother who publically objected to the Amendment: they were identified publicly as gays and lesbians in scathing pamphlets distributed at many Christian bookstores and businesses. Rabbi Steven Foster drew parallels between fundamentalist attacks on various groups and attacks on Jews. He also said Jews did not need to be prayed for, they needed to be left alone. Certainly a position much of the gay and lesbian community would agree with.

The feeling of concern among various groups hopefully foreshadows a growing awareness of the true intentions of the Robertson/Dobson/Falwell clones. It is important that Ground Zero and individuals in the community continue to be linked with organizations like the Freedom Network and other supportive groups to work together against those who have us all as targets in their sights.

A MESSAGE FROM KEVIN

Many people journeyed to the Fast site during the week that Mel White was there. Perhaps the least expected was KEVIN TEBEDO, Director of Colorado for Family Values.

Nothing new came from the conversations that Kevin, Mel and others had that day and nothing was expected. In a final, chilling moment, however, Kevin left us with a remarkably frank picture of how he views this whole "anti-gay" venture and just what he envisions its outcome to be.

Speaking to Samuel Behrens, an attorney from the Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice in California, and Ground Zero President, Bobby Mone, Kevin asked the question:

"WHERE WILL YOU 'HOMOSEXUALS' GO WHEN WE [*THE RADICAL RIGHT*] WIN?"

This one remark is more than enough for one to understand the true agenda of those who run Colorado for Family Values. It has been Ground Zero's contention from the beginning that CFV's, and the radical rights agenda, call for the elimination of gays and lesbians from viable participation in society and government.

Elimination can result from making us virtually invisible, having no representation or voice. It need not only occur in gas chambers.

Even more chilling is how easily others not on the approved list can be inserted into the statement where the word "homosexuals" now appears.

A significant number of gays and lesbians are just sitting back, wallowing in the belief that they are not affected by all that is going on. If this statement does not ring their chimes, one has to begin to fear what this portends for the future.

PIKES PEAK JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

49th Anniversary of Atomic Bombing To Be Commemorated

August 6, 1994 marks the 49th anniversary of the first atomic bomb ever detonated over a populated area at Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the second atomic blast delivered by U. S. forces took place at Nagasaki, Japan

A gathering in commemoration of these events will be held on August 6, 1994 at the Pioneers Museum gazebo, 215 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs.

Featured will be three speakers sharing their first-hand insights regarding this historically significant period:

Rev. Bob Fortenbaugh of Fountain, a retired United Methodist pastor, who, as a young engineer, participated in the Manhattan Project's work to develop The Bomb.

Jim Gibney of Colorado Springs, a journalist with the "Denver Post" News Bureau, who in 1945 was a gunnery officer with the Air Force assigned to photograph the aftermath at Hiroshima.

Fusako "Grace" Kawahara of Denver, the only known Hiroshima survivor living in the region.

This activity is being sponsored by the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission and will be open to the public without charge. For further information, call Richard Jones-Christie at 594-4935 or Barbara Huber at 632-6189.

Letter to the Editor

FOCUS ON DOLLARS

Focus on the Family has done a brilliant job of ducking the issue concerning the damaging effect their fundraising efforts are having on our children and our families. In a response from Focus Vice President Tom Minnery dated July 25, attention is purposely diverted away from the charges made of their questionable fundraising tactics. Focus again fails to address the community problems they have created when parents and children are misled as to what the real dangers and who the real perpetrators of child abuse are.

Focus is banking on the hysteria of fear they created with the continual exploitation of the "homosexual lifestyle" to finance their vast growing empire. The best corporate fundraiser of all time has been to point a finger while yelling "Child Molester!" much like the children of Salem would yell "Witch". Focus on the Family relies on frightening the lost sheep of society into donating money to fight the imaginary enemies they have placed in their heads.

My God! Just look at that lavish mega structure Focus resides in. Could such a vast and wealthy kingdom be maintained with the humble donations raised to fight the majority of child abuse that comes from the inner family? The importance of fundraising has been placed above the importance of giving correct family guidance. Focus on the Family has sacrificed today's children, all in pursuit of the almighty dollar.

With deep sincerity,
Christy and Dan Wood

Equality PAC TO SUPPORT, ENDORSE CANDIDATES/ENDORSE GAY/LESBIAN FRIENDLY CANDIDATES; SEEKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(DENVER)--Colorado gay, lesbian and bisexual activists have formed Equality PAC, a non-partisan political action committee committed to providing financial support to candidates who are allies in the fight for gay/lesbian/bisexual rights and the fight against AIDS.

After the voters approved the anti-gay unconstitutional Amendment Two in the 1992 election, lesbian and gay activists felt a need to become more involved in the political and electoral processes in order to effect real change. The formation of the Equality PAC is an important moment in Colorado history as gay and lesbian activists organize to provide endorsements and financial support to those candidates who support gay and lesbian civil rights.

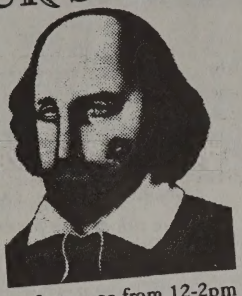
The Equality PAC will survey candidates and make endorsements based on each candidates responses. Financial support, as it is available, will be given to those candidates who are involved in marginal and key races. Candidates' responses will be published in a Voters' Guide during the last month of the 1994 election cycle.

The PAC is associated with Equality Colorado and decisions will be made by a PAC committee of individuals representative of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. The PAC is currently seeking committee members interested in participating in electoral work and decision making. PAC committee members must be willing to work on candidate research, voter guide publication, candidate endorsement decisions and fundraising and meet a minimum of two times per month. Individuals who are interested in serving on the PAC committee should contact Sue Anderson at (303) 839-5540.

UCCS' THEATREWORKS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

8pm August 5-27
Nightly except Mondays
Smokebrush Center
255 S. Nevada
444-0884



Tickets are free and available the day of the performance from 12-2pm at the Smokebrush Box Office (Max. 2 tix per person).
Don't miss your chance: a limited number of reserved tickets are available for $10 anytime: call 444-0884 for reservations.

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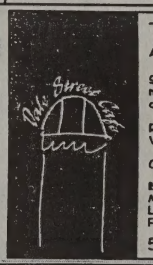
DR. MEL WHITE
Dean of the Cathedral



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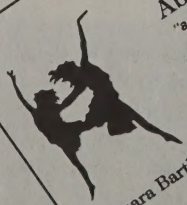

Tamara Bartlett

WORKING TOGETHER

Ground Zero has organized a Speaker's Bureau to coordinate presentations to the communtity. Below is the copy of our brochure which has been sent to over 500 different organizations in the community.

What:

COMMUNITY VOICES are local people waiting for your invitation to share their personal experiences and knowledge. We are neighbors eager to speak to your organization, church, school, or place of business.

Why:

Many leaders rely on the fact that some people are unwilling to take the time to become informed and hope that they, as leaders, can make decisions for others. They'll choose your jobs, taxes, freedoms, and even your faith if they have the chance.

Allow COMMUNITY VOICES to expand your horizons.

The speaker's subject is guided by you. Choose from the list of topics in this brochure. Listen, ask questions, learn, and make your own decisions.

Participating Organizations:

ACLU • Citizens Project • La Guia
Ground Zero • Jewish Voices for Justice
Metropolitan Community Church
Southern Colorado AIDS Project
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center

Topics:

TOLERANCE AND CHRISTIANITY

AIDS MYTHS AND REALITY

WORKING IN COALITION • CENSORSHIP

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

FREE SPEECH • GAY LIVES

PUBLIC EDUCATION & THE FAR RIGHT

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

DEATH PENALTY • PORNOGRAPHY

CARE-GIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

CONCERNS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

DUE PROCESS • GAY RIGHTS

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

SPOUSAL BENEFITS • RACE & JUSTICE

POLITICS AND THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT

RIGHTS OF THE HOMELESS

ENGLISH ONLY LAWS

A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON THE FAR RIGHT

RIGHTS OF WOMEN • RIGHT TO DIE

CIVIL LIBERTIES • DRUG TESTING

RIGHTS OF THE HANDICAPPED

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

SPANISH TRANSLATION IS AVAILABLE BY SPECIAL REQUEST

Please Fill In This Form, Detach and Mail. Thank-you.

Name of Your Organization: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Speech Topic Desired: _____

Alternate Topic: _____ Time _____

Date Desired: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Meeting Place: _____

Comments / Special Requests: _____

Thank-you for your interest.

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GROUND ZERO has received a commitment to match all sustaining memberships from a major funding source.